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# FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

R. C.

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM  
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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March 1, 1929.

Volume III, No. 1.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ALL RURAL RESEARCH WORKERS.

Prof. C. H. Cooley, University of  
Michigan writes:

"Thank you very much for the Monograph  
on Rural Sociological Research in the United  
States. It is just what I needed.

Indeed, I am inclined to think that it  
is the most convincing exposition of the actu-  
ality and promise of sociology as a working  
science that I have come across. It would do  
more to convince a skeptic than all the phil-  
osophical arguments that have appeared. It  
ought, I should suppose, to be published and  
made generally available."

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ANOTHER INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH WORKERS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

The Sub-Committee on Rural Social Organization of the Land-Grant College  
Association held a meeting at Chicago in connection with the meetings of the  
American Sociological Society on December 29th. The Committee agreed to recom-  
mend that an Institute for leaders of research projects in Rural Sociology  
similar to that held at Purdue University in April, 1927, be held some time  
in 1930. The Committee is also arranging a conference with representatives of  
the Home Economists and Farm Economists looking towards the drafting of a  
Purnell Project on the farm family.

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CHICAGO MEETING OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION OF AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Taking for its general topic "The Rural Community", the annual meeting of the American Sociological Society, held in Chicago, December 26-29, 1928, featured concepts and situations of first-hand interest to rural sociologists.

In the more general sessions, J. M. Gillette, University of North Dakota gave as his presidential address, a paper on "Urban Influence and Selection" as these affect the rural community. C. C. Taylor, North Carolina State College, Dwight Sanderson of Cornell University, and J. H. Kolb of the University of Wisconsin presented papers before the Division on Social Psychology, each one taking up some phase of the topic: "Changes in Rural Social Distance". The first named speaker outlined certain psycho-social phenomena of the most prominent so-called farmers' movements in the United States. Professor Kolb stressed the effect of recent changes in contacts experienced by farm families as their former locality groups give way to special interest groups. Professor Sanderson presented some preliminary findings of a psychological study of rural leadership in a New York county.

Two out of the four papers read before the Division on Statistics were in the field of rural sociology. C. C. Zimmerman, University of Minnesota, in his "Selective Aspects of Rural and Urban Migration" gave statistical evidence of types of persons moving in each direction. J. O. Rankin, University of Nebraska, discussed the use of statistical material in measuring farm family welfare.

Rural sociologists occupied a prominent place in the Division of Human Ecology and Population. C. E. Lively, Ohio State University, led off with the subject, "Type of Agriculture as a Conditioning Factor in Community Organization." He was followed by R. B. Vance, University of North Carolina with a paper entitled, "Cotton Culture and Social Life Institutions in the South", with a formal discussion by C. C. Taylor of North Carolina State College. Bruce Melvin, Cornell University, closed this session with a paper on "Age and Sex Distribution as Factors in Rural Behavior."

In the Division on Social Research, one of the ten-minute reports of research in progress was given by E. L. Kirkpatrick, University of Wisconsin, his subject being "The Case Study of the Farm Family as a Method of Rural Research."

Two meetings of the Rural Sociology Section were given over to the question of methodology in rural social research. Five research projects were described in detail to bring out the various techniques now being used. These were reported by H. J. Burt, University of Missouri, C. Luther Fry, Institute of Social and Religious Research, W. Russell Tylor, University of Illinois, Lowry Nelson, Brigham Young University, and H. B. Hawthorne, University of Akron. Their presentation evoked many questions and some animated discussion. C. H. Cooley, University of Michigan, gave a masterly appeal for more rural social research using the observation and participant-observer methods to supplement studies based upon questionnaires or schedules involving chiefly statistical measurements. Pitirim Sorokin, University of Minnesota, in a paper entitled "Fundamental Differences in Rural-Urban Re-



ligious Cultures, Attitudes and Beliefs" made some helpful suggestions for approaching this and other rural psycho-social situations in an objective, scientific way. E. L. Morgan, University of Missouri, emphasized the need of more rural social research as a basic step in the preparation of constructive extension service programs in this field.

At a joint luncheon meeting between the Rural Sociology Section and the American Farm Economics Association, the sociological and economic implications of the Mexican immigration movement were reviewed. Robert Redfield, University of Chicago, opened the program with an abstract of a report on this problem by the Mexican economist, Manuel Gamio. Mr. Gamio personally has made an intensive study of Mexican immigration on both sides of the border. In the main, his report is quite optimistic from the Mexican point of view. The American viewpoint was presented in two papers. That of Max Handman, University of Texas, took up economic factors and E. S. Bogardus, University of Southern California, developed the sociological problems in the movement. The sociological problems accompanying the influx of thousands of low paid, illiterate immigrants appear more serious than do the economic complications though the two groups are in many respects closely related. The need for further scientific study before adopting long time policies of control was strongly emphasized.

A joint dinner meeting was held by the Rural Sociology and Community Sections of the American Sociological Society and the National Community Center Association. The general subject was rural community organization. Influenza played havoc with some of the announced speakers, but B. L. Hummel, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service and A. H. Rapking, West Virginia Agricultural College presented interesting papers before a large group. Mr. Hummel, serving as a "pinch hitter" deserves special mention for his effort.

The business meeting of the Rural Sociology Section named as its steering committee for the coming year, B. F. Coen, Colorado Agricultural College, chairman, and W. A. Anderson, North Carolina State College of Agriculture, and J. O. Rankin, University of Nebraska as the other two members. By resolution, the office of secretary for the Section was created and H. J. Burt, University of Missouri, was elected to fill the place.

Other resolutions passed included one asking that the Rural Sociology Section at its annual meeting serve as a clearing house to bring together trained rural sociologists and available positions; another urging that more influence be brought to bear to secure additional Purnell funds for rural social research; and a third expressing to C. J. Galpin the regret of the Section over his inability to attend its 1928 meeting. The report of the Committee on Population, requesting certain changes in the 1930 census as it concerns farm population data and making more of this material available in a convenient form was likewise accepted by the section.

Several sociologists appeared on the programs of other section meetings. Among these should be mentioned J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin, who presided over a conference on "Methods of Community Appraisal" in the Section on Sociology and Social Work. Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, gave a paper on "The Rural Community as a Unit for Rural Administration" before the Section on Educational Sociology which in turn was discussed by A. W. Hayes, Marshall

College, E. deS. Brunner appeared before the same section with a paper entitled "Some Investigations into Rural Life with Curriculum Implications".

All in all, the 1928 meeting will go down as one in which rural sociology occupied a conspicuous and a well-deserved place. It filled this position in a very creditable manner. Good attendance, enthusiasm, and frank discussions were characteristic of practically every session.

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JOINT MEETINGS OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS, AND RURAL SOCIOLOGISTS.

The first step has been taken in the direction of stimulating into action the interest of political scientists in the subject of the farmer and his local government, as a result of a meeting in Chicago during Christmas week of members of the political science group, of agricultural economists and rural sociologists, already in session at that time in conventions of the respective associations. Professor John F. Fairlie of the University of Illinois was keenly interested in promoting a joint session of these three groups at the annual meeting next year, if it could be arranged. The lively interest manifested at this short session in the major rural problems of these three groups is very gratifying to those rural sociologists who have for sometime felt that the farmer is gravely handicapped in his effort to improve his social and economic conditions by the fact that he has an inadequate rural municipality.

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AT THE ILLINOIS STATE COLLEGE.

Professor W. Russell Tylor writes as follows from the University of Illinois:

As to the development of rural sociology here I am pleased to state that I have, for this year and last each, a class of well over fifty students, upperclassmen, in the general course on Rural Sociology. This spring, for the first time, I am offering a graduate seminar on Rural Communities, from which it is hoped that shortly, if not immediately, some definite projects in rural sociological research will be forthcoming. I shall repeat this advanced course during the summer session.

One of our graduate students has been working this year for her master's thesis on a definite first-hand sociological study of a particular German rural community group over in Clinton County. The study is primarily on their standards of living and social contacts as revealed from a comprehensive analysis of their family and farm accounts and budgets.

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IOWA STATE RURAL ORCHESTRA CONTEST.

The Rural Organization Extension Department of Iowa State College is sponsoring an annual rural orchestra contest which Professor G. H. Von Tungeln reports as "going bigger each year." In a recent, sectional contest the Tri-County orchestra, which recruits its membership from the vicinity of Stanhope, came out ahead. The orchestra is reported to be unique in that it runs quite strongly to stringed instruments and won its laurels playing from Schubert and Beethoven.

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AT THE MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

Professor Eben Mumford sends in the following:

The Annual Conference of the Michigan Country Life Association was held at the State College of Agriculture, February 4 and 5, during Farmers' Week. This Association was organized in 1913. It was quiescent during the late war and reorganized about four years ago. It is made up of both individual and association or organization memberships.

In connection with the meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, March 15-16, the sociologists of the state will have a program, a part of which will consist of papers on rural topics.

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AT THE MISSOURI STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

Professor E. L. Morgan makes the following announcement:

I am sure you will be interested to know that our Board of Curators has just approved a two-year curriculum in public welfare in the College of Agriculture which will lead to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Rural Public Welfare. The direction of this curriculum will be within the department of Rural Sociology. This development will mean much to us partly because it will entail an additional teaching staff and give us a professional outlet for students. I believe this is the first college of agriculture to offer a degree in the social aspects of country life.

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COUNTRY LIFE MEETING IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

A noon luncheon conference followed by an afternoon meeting on country life was recently held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The conference included about twenty-five representatives from different parts of the state interested in country life problems. They were employed Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. workers, university faculty people, and men from the banks, the clergy, and other lines of work. Among those who participated in the discussion were Chief Justice Goss of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Superintendent W. A. Luke of the Lincoln City Y.M.C.A., Director W. H. Brokaw, of the University of Nebraska Agricultural Extension Service, and Professor J. O. Rankin of the University of Nebraska.

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AT THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

Dr. B. L. Melvin has just completed and submitted for publication a "Study of the Rural Population of Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York," based on the original schedules of the State Census of 1925. This study reveals what it is possible to do with a thorough analysis of the Census data particularly with regard to age groupings and vocations of villages, including those unincorporated, and the open country.

Mr. R. G. Foster, an assistant in the Department of Rural Social Organization, spent three months during the fall in making case studies of some eighty farm families with particular reference to the types of families and the influence of boys' and girls' club work on the family life.

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AT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

C. C. Taylor sends in the following news items:

Five persons are writing their master's thesis at North Carolina State College on rural topics: "An Ideal Rural Social Code"; "Factors Making for the Success or Failure of Home Demonstration Clubs in North Carolina"; "An Ecological Study of Rural Community Organizations"; "The History of the Farmers' Union in North Carolina"; "National Farmers' Organizations Interpreted in Terms of Price Levels."

C. C. Taylor spoke to the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation on "The Rural Standard of Living" on January 15 and to the Iowa State Farm Bureau Federation on "The History of the Farmers' Movements in America" on January 16. He will speak to the Ohio State Grange on "Opportunity for the Grange in Rural

Social Service". It is encouraging to see the large farmers' organizations becoming more and more interested in the social phases of agriculture.

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NEIGHBORHOOD DAY IN NORTH DAKOTA.

A. G. Arvold of North Dakota Agricultural College conducted his Second Annual Neighborhood Day, January 15. A great variety of neighborhoods from around the state came to The Little Country Theater at the State College, Fargo, and put on one-act plays to the great satisfaction of a crowded house. Mr. C. J. Galpin who was in attendance reports that it is not sufficient for any one to read about Professor Arvold's Little Country Theater work at North Dakota; one must see The Little Country Theater with his own eyes, see the country people put on their plays, take luncheon in the "Lincoln Log Cabin" above the theater, visit the costume room, see the actors make up in the make-up room, in order to have a full appreciation of Professor Arvold's remarkable technique.

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AT THE OHIO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

Professor C. E. Lively sends in the following news items:

Field work of the three-year project, "Movement of Open Country Population" has been completed. A total of 1279 families, of which 1080 are farm families, have been interviewed. These families were distributed over eight local areas. Two mimeographed progress reports have been issued and the progress report on Southeastern Ohio is now ready for distribution.

During the past three years 190 records of farm family living have been collected by the account book method. These records supply information which is being summarized and analysed from various points of view by both the Departments of Rural Economics and Home Economics.

The school of methods for Grange Lecturers which has been held for several years in connection with Farmer's Week is being extended to one week in length this year and held February 25 - March 1. R.B. Tom, Extension Specialist in Rural Recreation, is in charge.

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AN AGRICULTURAL NEWS LETTER.

The Colored State A. and M. College of Orangeburg, S. C. puts out periodically an interesting mimeographed news letter edited by E. A. Grant, which gives a large place to rural life items along with its references to agricultural and economic practices. Mr. Grant's apparent attempt is to appeal to the "whole man" in his rural constituency.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE.

Professor C. E. Allred sends in the following:

At the University of Tennessee Professor C. E. Allred is engaged this year on a study of the social aspects of rural cooperation. He is being assisted by Messrs. S. W. Atkins and G. H. Hatfield.

A study of the consumption of various kinds of meats, eggs, and milk in nine typical areas of Tennessee is now being made by Professor C. E. Allred of the University of Tennessee, assisted by J. C. Powell. Already about 850 records have been secured, and others are to be secured at an early date.

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RELATIVE ABILITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM FARM, TOWN AND CITY.

Professor Norman Frost, of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, briefly describes an interesting study in progress in Tennessee, as follows:

Mr. C. D. Lewis is now conducting a study of the rural high school students in certain sections of Tennessee. In such a study he is trying to find out the relative ability of pupils from farm, town and city; the future plans of different types of ability. He has one interesting variation of this study from those which have previously been made. On the basis of the number of relatives which they have who have moved to town, he is attempting to determine something of the general mental ability of those who remain in the country. The assumption is that the relatives of bright folks are more likely to be bright than are the relatives of stupid people. Knowing the brightness and stupidity of high school students on the basis of psychological tests, he is determining the brightness and stupidity of the relatives of these pupils who have moved to town. This should give us a fair cross-section of the movement of the population from the country to the town and help answer the question as to whether the best people have been leaving the country, leaving an inferior group on the land.

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VERMONT SURVEY OF COUNTRY LIFE.

The Vermont Commission on Country Life announces that the following topics will be made the subject of study by Committees of the Vermont Commission on Country Life:

Basic geographical features; the human factor; the farm production and marketing program; the forestry program and the wood-working industries; summer residence and tourists; fish, game, and the preservation of wild life; land utilization; quarries, mines, manufactures and commerce in their relation to rural life; transportation and communication and other public utilities; rural public finance; living standards; rural health; educational facilities for rural people; religious forces; citizenship; conservation of Vermont traditions and ideals.

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AT THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

Professor W. E. Garnett sends in the following news items:

The Agricultural Commission authorized by the last Virginia Legislature, on its organization early in January, 1929, elected President J. A. Burruss, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute as its Chairman. This Commission will give attention to standards of living and other social questions affecting the rural life of Virginia along with other types of problems.

A movement to form an Agricultural Conference Board composed of representatives of all producers' organizations in the State, was launched last August. Twenty odd organizations have formally given adherence to this Board. The organization will be perfected early in February. The Conference Board will give special attention to the legislative problems affecting the rural interests of the State.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Department of Rural Sociology, in cooperation with seven of the leading denominations of the State, has for nearly two years been working on a study of the rural church in relation to community organizations. A conference of denominational leaders has been called for February 22 to consider a preliminary report of the study together with follow-up plans.

B. L. Hummel, formerly of the University of Missouri, who joined the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service August, 1928, as community organization specialist, has started community organization demonstrations in ten counties. Some of these demonstration centers include work with the several types of organization systems now operating in the State, such as, the Grange, the Farm Bureau, and the Cooperative Educational Association. Professor Hummel is also cooperating in the research study of community organization being conducted by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Department of Rural Sociology.

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ANNUAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

Dr. Wilson Gee of the University of Virginia sends in the following announcement:

The Third Annual Institute of Public Affairs will be held at the University of Virginia from August 4 - 17, 1929. Among the Round Tables will be one on the social phases of the farm life problem, and another on the country church. Those who are interested in the full program and the other very attractive features which it offers can secure further information by writing Dean Charles G. Maphis, Director of the Institute, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

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AT THE WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

Dr. J. H. Kolb sends in the following news items:

Students and faculty members in rural sociology included among the initiates to Alpha Kappa Delta, honorary sociological fraternity in the University of Wisconsin, January 11, 1929 were: Judith Russell, E. A. Willson, Ralph Ammon, E. L. Kirkpatrick. At the initiation program Kimball Young, President of the national society, and J. L. Gillin, both of the University of Wisconsin, gave addresses on separate phases of the topic, "Newer Research in the Field of Sociology."

On January 17 a luncheon was given at the Memorial Union Building for C. J. Galpin, who called at the University of Wisconsin on his return to Washington from the North Dakota Agricultural College. Among the faculty members and graduate students who attended the luncheon were: J. H. Kolb, Kimball Young, E. L. Kirkpatrick, D. E. Linstrom, Robert Polson, E. A. Willson, Ralph Ammon, Theodore W. Schultz, Ralph Russell, Judith Russell, Lowry Nelson, M. H. Alberts, and Wayne T. Gray. Mr. Galpin spoke briefly of the "Campus Theater" at the North Dakota Agricultural College and discussed extension needs in the field of rural sociology.

At its last meeting of the first semester, the Country Life Club at the University of Wisconsin elected the following officers for the coming year: A. A. Zurbach, president; Veronica Schilling, vice president; Sylvia Brudos, secretary; and John Dickey, treasurer.

The chief purpose of this organization is to train college students who are returning to farm communities in the art of rural community leadership. The program for the coming year includes instruction and participation in conducting games and rural gatherings, play days for rural schools, and the staging of rural dramatics.



This organization assisted the Rural Sociology Division of the College of Agriculture in staging the final contest of the Home Talent Tournament in rural dramatics during Farmers' week at the University, February 4 to 8.

Persons who received honorary recognition for distinguished service in agriculture by the University of Wisconsin at the annual Farmer's Week program held at the University February 4 to 8, 1929, were Miss Lucy Leonard, County Superintendent of Schools, Washburn County; J. W. Hutchinson, farmer, Randolph County; W. J. Hansche, farmer, Racine County; S. C. Cushman, manager of county farm and home, Columbia County; and L. J. Taber, Master of the National Grange, Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Taber delivered the main address for the occasion on the topic "Rural Leadership". Dr. E. A. Birge, former president of the University extended the recognition and presented the diplomas.

A luncheon was tendered Mr. L. J. Taber, Master of the National Grange, at the time of his visit at the University of Wisconsin to receive honorary recognition for distinguished service in agriculture and to deliver addresses at the regular Farmer's Week program. Thirty-five persons, including leaders of student groups and faculty members of the College of Agriculture attended the luncheon, which had for its purpose the consideration of the installation of a local grange at the College of Agriculture.

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#### RURAL ORGANIZATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

On request, Professor V. Smetanka, Secretary of the Central Sociological Commission of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture at Prague, makes the following contribution to "Activities" as Part I of a serial interpretation of farm life in Central Europe, especially among the Slavonic people:

##### I.

In Czechoslovakia and in the whole of Central Europe the country people have not only their professional organizations, which protect their economic interests, but they have a long time ago created their own political parties in order to obtain influence on legislation and state administration. In Central Europe, and especially among Slavonic peoples, who are for the most part engaged in agriculture, there is no dispute whatever as to whether the agriculturists have to be organized politically or not. It is also easier for them for that reason because the Central European states distinguish themselves by the whole series of political parties, which form in case of need, political blocks. In Central Europe the peasantry forms the most important part of agricultural political parties. They are parties of a distinct calling, which contribute very much to guiding the state policy objectively. In these parties are organized not only peasants and agriculturists generally, but also the



country people, in the broadest sense of the word, and those in large cities who are in intellectual connection with the parties. The agricultural movement in Central Europe is in its substance an intellectual and cultural movement which is firmly and deeply implanted in the soul of the nation. Therefore, much attention is also paid to examining the ideology of agrarianism.

Credit is especially due to the Czechoslovak peasant party, officially called the Republican Party of Agriculturists and Smallholders, in that it knew how to solve under the guidance of its chairman, (the present prime minister of the Czechoslovak Republic Dr. Antonin Svehla) the problem of minorities in Czechoslovakia, which could not be solved in the old Austro-Hungarian empire, and which is an attendant phenomenon of all Central European states. In the present government this party acts in connection with the German agricultural party in Czechoslovakia, the so-called Union of Agriculturists. For Czechoslovak agriculturists, close ties with the agriculturists of other Slavonic states, always were and are self evident. There is no large agricultural meeting in Czechoslovakia in which other Slavonic peoples would not be represented. In this way the idea of the present premier, Dr. Svehla, to found an International Agrarian Bureau in Prague, - in which agricultural political groups, representing the millions of the Central European agrarian democracy, would cooperate - was realized in 1923. This International Agrarian Bureau is a center of organized elements of country people which can bring to practical realization theoretical resolutions which are generally accepted in other international agricultural congresses and recommended to different governments.

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RURAL POPULATION OF NEW YORK, 1855 to 1925.

The Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station issues Memoir 116 entitled, "Rural Population of New York, 1855 to 1925" by Bruce L. Melvin. This study, conducted in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, is a painstaking, methodical presentation of the statistics of rural population, carefully discriminating from one another the farm population, the unincorporated town and village population, the non-farming, non-village population. Professor Melvin's study of rural population in New York is a significant interpretation of the facts brought to light and could well be imitated in other important agricultural states.

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## RURAL INDUSTRIES.

In Great Britain, it is well understood that the rural population require rural industries to supplement the incomes obtainable from agriculture. An attractive and very readable periodical entitled, "Rural Industries, The Quarterly Magazine for Country Trades and Handicrafts" is put out by the Office of Rural Industries Bureau, 27 Bedford, W.C.I. London, England. Rural sociologists in the United States must prepare themselves for a growing interest in rural industries as an added source of income to part-time farmers and other farmers living on small farms, especially on low-value farms, with poor soils and difficult topography. It is estimated that forty per cent of the farm population of the United States is limited to a small agricultural income due to the poor character of the land and the historical division into small farms. Presumably fifty per cent of these farm people are already seeking sources of income additional to the farm. Someone will soon be raising the question whether a concerted movement to develop rural industries is not a responsibility of all those interested in country life.

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## TOWN-COUNTRY RELATIONSHIPS.

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, has recently issued Special Bulletin No. 181, A Study of Town-Country Relationships, by C. R. Hoffer. Professor Hoffer states the purpose of the study as an examination of certain town-country relationships from the standpoint of their effect upon community organization. Professor Hoffer stresses the size of town and type of merchandizing service offered; size of town and other types of services offered; community organization and size of town; where farmers trade; the trade center and the farmer's church, newspaper, post office, telephone, and social affairs; the future of the small town; interlocking the interests of town and country.

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## URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS.

Aside from the inherent value of the book, it is highly interesting to know that the Kiwanis International has recently published a compilation of excerpts on rural-urban relations. It will be recalled by those attending the American Country Life Association at Urbana in June, 1928, that this book was referred to and more or less used as a text book on the general topic of the Conference. This somewhat ephemeral use of the book, however, is supplemented by the purpose to use it as a popular hand-book for all Kiwanis Clubs. The authors are Carl C. Taylor, North Carolina State College of Agri-

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culture, Nat T. Frame, West Virginia College of Agriculture, and Frank H. Jeter, Kiwanis International. While the somewhat hasty compilation of this book precludes its being a complete source book on rural-urban problems for use in classes of rural sociology, it has brought together an array of quotations on the topic far exceeding in variety of sources anything previously available.

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THE FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING.

From the Century Company, New York City, has just come to hand a copy of Professor E. L. Kirkpatrick's "The Farmer's Standard of Living" - a book in the Century Rural Life Book Series. The author states that the book is the outgrowth of several years' work on the farmer's standard of living and is intended for research workers, teachers and students, and for general readers who are concerned about the present or future status of American agriculture. The author and the editor invite constructive criticism of this pioneer effort to bring together the results of thinking on this important theme.

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SUICIDE OF THE IRISH RACE.

In the late November issues of AMERICA appeared a series of articles entitled, "The Suicide of the Irish Race" written by Rev. M. V. Kelly. Father Kelly, now a resident in Canada, is well known to American writers. The object of his articles is to show that the unsatisfactory birth rate of the Irish in America is due to the fact that during the past seventy-five years the Irish have constantly sought city residence as their permanent home instead of farm and village residence and occupation.

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THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE OF COOPERATIVE MARKETING.

A preliminary report on the marketing of Eastern Shore potatoes, a study carried on during the summer by T. B. Manny of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, has been mimeographed and circulated among 5,000 farmers of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. This small report entitled "What Farmers Say About Marketing Eastern Shore Potatoes and What Farmers Suggest for Better Marketing" is only a fragment of the main study which is being prepared now for later publication.

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### NEW TEXT BOOK IN PROSPECT

Henry Holt and Co. announces the publication late this Spring of "Principles of Rural-Urban Sociology" by Pitirim Sorokin and Carle C. Zimmerman, University of Minnesota. The following table of contents gives promise of an unusually broad consideration of rural problems in the urban relationships:

1. The Concept and Purpose of Rural Sociology. 2. The Rural and Urban Worlds.
3. The Status of the Farmer Group. 4. Bodily Differences Between the Rural-Urban Populations. 5. Rural-Urban Health Comparisons. 6. Diseases of City and Country. 7. Rural-Urban Suicides. 8. Comparative Longevity and Mortality. 9. Birth Rates and Vitality. 10. Marriage. 11. Rural-Urban Intelligence. 12. Rural-Urban Mental Disease. 13. The Experience World and Psychological Processes of the Rural-Urban World. 14. Psycho-Social Traits of Farmers. 15. The Rural and Urban Family. 16. Criminality, Immorality, Intemperance. 17. Role of City and Country in the National Culture. 18. Rural-Urban Religious Culture. 19. Political Culture. 20. Agricultural Classes, Political Regimes, Democracy, Freedom and Tolerance. 21. Arts and Esthetic Culture. 22. Individualism and Collectivism. 23. Trends and Factors in Recent Migrations. 24. Age and Sex Selectivity in Urban Migrations. 25. Further Considerations of "Selective" Selection. 26. The "Laws" of Migration. 27. Retrospect and Practical Suggestions.

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### NEBRASKA RURAL LIFE MAN WRITES A NOVEL

Mr. Newton D. Gaines, Specialist in Rural Community Organization of Nebraska, recently published a novel entitled "In the Shadow of the Wigwam".

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### TWO NEW EXTENSION BULLETINS

The University of Wisconsin puts out for the benefit of its rural community organizations a bulletin entitled "Conducting the Business Meeting", by A. F. Wileden. This bulletin of 16 pages is calculated to give all country organizations a working knowledge of parliamentary practices.

The College of Agriculture has seen fit to take J. H. Kolb's and A. F. Wileden's bulletin, "Special Interest Groups", and skim the cream of the publication, put it into a very presentable package for every-day consumption by members of the community organizations in Wisconsin. This new bulletin is entitled "Making Rural Organizations Effective".

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### SOCIAL WORK AND LEGISLATION IN SWEDEN

The Royal Social Board of Sweden, at the request of the Government, has just issued separately in the English, Swedish, and French language a much extended revision of its 1921 survey of social work and legislation. This is a very readable and informing book of about 300 pages, dealing with many rural as well as urban movements. Sweden ranks in the forefront of nations recognizing the social claims upon government.

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### AN ENGLISH QUARTERLY - THE COUNTRYMAN

One who wishes to pollenate his American type of rural thinking with an English strain will do well to become a reader of J. W. Robertson Scott's handy little volume THE COUNTRYMAN, "an illustrated review and miscellany", which, as Thomas Hardy said, "makes one feel in the country". A subscription rate of \$2.50 a year may be sent to The Countryman, Idbury, Kingham, Oxford, England.

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### THE DANISH FOLK SCHOOL

The Macmillan Company has just brought out a book by Mrs. Olive D. Campbell, entitled THE DANISH FOLK SCHOOL, ITS INFLUENCE IN THE LIFE OF DENMARK AND THE NORTH. Mrs. Campbell, it will be recalled, has set up at Brasstown, North Carolina, the John C. Campbell Folk School which takes the place in her mind as an "adventure in adapting the principles underlying the Danish schools to the conditions of rural life in the Southern Highlands." Mrs. Campbell made a study of many months duration in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark a few years ago, and this book attempts to convey to the American public her intimate impressions of this famous type of school.

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### RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Agricultural Committee of the National Fire Waste Council, Washington, D. C. has recently put out an attractive bulletin on the "Rural Fire Department, How to Organize, Equip and Maintain an Effective Community Fire Fighting Unit." Here is a practical subject for the improvement of all farm communities. Remembering what a social force the volunteer fire department of the small town is, sociologists might well take a hand in spreading the organization of farmers' fire-fighting units in rural America.

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### MORE ABOUT THE SWISS PEASANT

This is to continue Mr. Borel's statement which appeared in the December issue of "Activities".

One of the greatest dangers which menace the Swiss country life is in the domain of architecture. It is a well-known fact that the Swiss peasant lives as a rule in a comfortable dwelling. Foreign travelers, when making comparisons with other Central-European countries, like the Swiss villages and praise their architecture; they specially admire the big and well-proportioned single farms as will be found in certain truly agricultural cantons. Unfortunately, since the crisis of the nineties, which struck European agriculture so hard, farmers were often compelled to pay much attention to the financial side of the question when setting up new buildings; they also were misled by architects from the cities which had no comprehension for the needs of the country and the charms of the old types of construction. For that reason, in the last 30 or 40 years, a number of farm buildings were erected, in villages or in the country, which without being always altogether practical, certainly do not contribute to the embellishment of their surroundings. A very energetic reaction is indeed setting in. The Swiss Farmers' Union created a few years ago a building office whose purpose it is to give advice to the farmers, make plans for them and look that the new constructions, though keeping all the advantages of modern architecture, are well adapted to the country and to the type of construction existing in each canton or locality. The "Heimatschutz" (League for the protection of picturesque Switzerland) is doing on its side a hard propaganda to the same effect. And the Society "Pro Campagna" even gives subsidies in order to induce farmers to build in the manner judged most appropriate.

Attempts are also made to maintain or reintroduce the old peasant art as concerns house furniture and decoration. At the recent "Exhibition for Women's Work" in Bern, the Swiss Farmers' Union had built a whole farmer's house, with appropriate pieces of furniture and utensils in each room. Much importance had been paid to articles of cloth. Instead of buying cheap cloth of poor quality, the Swiss Farmers' Union is advising farmers' wives and daughters to weave their own cloth at home, with the use of improved machinery, during the winter days.

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COUNTRY LIFE.

The fourth International Conference on Country Life will take place at Budapest, Hungary, June 1 - 7. It is expected that several American delegates will be present. Arrangements have been made for the presentation of three main papers by Americans. Any rural sociologists interested in this meeting can get detailed information about it by writing Mr. Asher Hobson, American Consulate, Geneva, Switzerland.

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#### THE CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE BUREAU

Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, pastor at Eugene, Oregon for the last nine years and Director of the Rural Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been granted a leave of absence in order to develop the work of the Rural Life Bureau. Father O'Hara will remove the office of the Bureau to Washington, D. C., where he will take up his headquarters.

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#### ANOTHER DOCTORATE IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Mr. Theo. B. Manny has recently received his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin in rural sociology upon a thesis entitled, "Rural Municipalities".

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#### TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION.

The next conference of the American Country Life Association will be held at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, October 17 - 20, 1929 on the general topic "Rural Organization." The program committee of which W. H. Stacy, Ames, Iowa, is acting as secretary, is developing a program based upon a combination of sectional meetings for open forum discussion on the various phases of rural organization and general sessions with prominent speakers of national repute. A suitable memorial session in recognition of Henry C. Wallace, ex-Secretary of Agriculture, will be one of the outstanding features of the program.

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#### NEW OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Country Life Association held on January 26th, the following officers were elected for the year 1929: Honorary President, Kenyon L. Butterfield; President, Frank O. Lowden; Vice Presidents, Henry A. Wallace and Mrs. C. C. Schuttler; Treasurer, Albert Shaw, Jr.; Executive Secretary, Benson Y. Landis; Field Representatives, Nat T. Frame, W. H. Stacy and Henry Israel. Dean A. R. Mann, of Cornell University was named Chairman of the Executive Committee. Nat T. Frame, who has been Executive Secretary, requested that he be relieved of the office due to pressure of other duties. He continues to represent the Association upon all



matters relating to the Extension Service, regional planning and commercial organizations. Mr. Landis will serve as Secretary for 1929 on a half-time basis. Kenyon L. Butterfield plans to be absent from the country for the major part of the year 1929.

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#### A TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Two hundred and fifty country life men and women from far and near met in New York the evening of February 8 to commemorate the twenty-years' service in the cause of rural life and the rural church of Dr. Warren H. Wilson of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. This occasion marked also the 20th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's presidential message to Congress presenting the Report of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission. This dinner was an event sponsored by fifty-four co-workers in movements designed to promote the betterment of rural community life in America, chief among whom were Liberty Hyde Bailey, Kenyon L. Butterfield, and Gifford Pinchot, members of the Country Life Commission.

The following speakers, representing many angles of professional interest in rural life, congratulated Dr. and Mrs. Wilson, and passed in review significant events in the last twenty years of the rural live movement at home and abroad: Edmund DeS. Brunner, William R. King, Charles L. Zorbaugh, H. N. Morse, Charles Stelzle, John H. Reisner, C. J. Galpin, Malcolm Dana, David Snedden, Mabel Carney.

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# FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM  
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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June 1, 1929.

Volume III, No. 2.

## DETROIT CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH IN RURAL FAMILY RELATIONS.

At the invitation of the Merrill-Palmer School, Detroit, Michigan, a round table conference of interested persons was held March 23 and 24, 1929. Among those present were Dean Mann, Dr. Sanderson, Miss Van Rensselaer of Cornell University; Dr. Kolb and Miss Bane, University of Wisconsin; Prof. Morgan, University of Missouri; Dr. Mumford, University of Michigan; Dr. Stanley and Miss Kneeland, Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Miss Stutsman, Miss White, Miss Vincent, from the Merrill-Palmer School; Mr. Frank of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation; Messrs. Tolley and Galpin of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Allen, Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dean Mann presented at the end of the conference the following summary:

1. A review of rural social research reveals the absence of any research on the rural family as such, as a social whole. The need for such research has here been strongly emphasized.

2. Research on the rural family as a unit is a unique endeavor which calls for the use of several social disciplines with respect to the data which they can severally contribute. There is need to formulate projects calling for coordinated study by the psychologist, the psychiatrist, the agricultural economist, home economist, the rural sociologist, among others.

3. Inclusive family research passes from the relatively familiar problem of comparing two variables to the consideration of the interactions of a variety of variables, revealed by the methods of the several contributory disciplines, and their synthesis so as to bring out the agreements and the discrepancies among the privileges and the restrictions imposed by the family relationships upon the activities of the individual. The discovery of these agreements and discrepancies may be expected to reveal the situations calling for efforts at adjustment.

4. The family exercises group control of individual behavior. Within the family, individual behavior may be adjusted to the existing or current environment, in certain of its aspects, whereas in other aspects family control over the individual behavior may reflect a code of an earlier period or a past generation. Members of the family are frequently living on different cultural levels. Thus arise incongruities or discrepancies between the wishes or the desires of the individual and the maintenance of the family as a group. These discrepancies are the cause of family stress and must be determined as a basis for the introduction of methods of readjustment. Stated in another way, the inquiry may ask whether it is an individual factor which causes family stress, or is it family incongruity at one or more points, viewed from the standpoint of internal and external situations alike?

5. Aspects of rural family life which offer opportunity for fruitful research include:

- a. Family formation
- b. Family integration
- c. Family disintegration
- d. Spousal relations
- e. Parent-child relations
- f. Family health
- g. Home management, including housing
- h. The family in relation to social and economic changes
- i. The social and vocational status of farm women
- j. Familial law and its effects.

6. The family is to be conceived in terms of structure and functions, the latter both internally and externally. Family research therefore calls for descriptions of family structure and functions and study of the ways and degrees to which changing economic and social conditions are affecting rural family structure and functions. The time appears to be ripe for the formulation of a research project concerned with the adjustment of the rural family relationships to the changing economic and social conditions, calling for coordinated investigation by the rural sociologist, the home economist, and the agricultural economist, among others. The influence of the farm business, the household organization and management, and the social and community facilities and activities should be collectively considered. Only by such a coordinated approach may we hope to comprehend the life of the rural family.

7. In the matter of methodology, both direct and indirect approach are involved, and statistical, descriptive (including continuous observation over a period of time), and perhaps experimental techniques are called for. It is important to discover ways and means of verifying the objectivity and the validity of the data. Emphasis has been given to the desirability of openly soliciting the interest and the cooperation of the community in particular projects in family research.



8. Both analysis and synthesis must be employed. Each aspect of family life, viewed from the angle of each separate social discipline is, or may be, susceptible of study as a scientific problem. One value of analysis as a beginning is to give some tangibles around which effort might be concentrated. With progress in each phase, the vision broadens and the need to bring in additional disciplines becomes apparent.

Analysis reveals the salient features and leads to the consciousness of need for cooperation, coordination, and synthesis. Awareness of the need for coordination with workers in other disciplines helps to keep the worker on the essentials, and helps also to obviate the tendency toward one-sidedness and partiality.

9. The broader, new problem which has come to the fore is how to develop methods for the scientific study of the rural family in its entirety. Also, what kinds of data is it possible to secure on family relations, and what methods can be utilized or developed to get at the factors in family relationships which are not susceptible of direct observation? Is there need to train or develop a new type of family research worker, combining the contributory disciplines in a new and coordinated way with the keenest insight?

10. The discussions have emphasized the importance of determining the frame of reference in selecting families; of knowing the economic, social, racial and other backgrounds characteristic of the group studies - in other words, the recognition of the cultural areas.

11. The implications of rural family research for the resident teaching and extension activities of the concerned institutions force themselves upon us for examination.

12. The fact of this conference and the elements which compose it, meeting for a composite consideration of family research, is far more significant than any of its utterances. It has focused attention on a question of primary importance, namely, in what manner and to what degree are economic and social changes modifying the contribution of the farm home to American life.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF COOPERATIVE COTTON MARKETING.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics with the assistance of the State Experiment Stations of North Carolina and Alabama is making a study of cotton cooperative marketing in these two states. The study is being carried out by T. B. Manny of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life with the aid of Julius A. Shanklin, Grady W. Townsend, and Albert L. Eagles of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture. It is expected that as a result of this study improved relationships between members of cooperative cotton organizations and the officials of such organizations will be brought about.

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EDMUND DES. BRUNNER MAKES NEW STUDY.

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The latest rural study of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, entitled "Immigrant Farmers and Their Children," by Edmund deS. Brunner, was issued by the Doubleday, Doran Press on May 3. Part I includes six chapters, as follows: Foreign-Born Farmers, Their Number, Distribution, and Characteristics; Does the Foreign-Born Farmer Make Good?; Intelligence Tests of Children of Immigrants; Intermarriage: Social Life; and The Church in the Immigrant Community. Part II contains four case-studies of colonies in North Carolina, Minnesota, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

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HAYES'S RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

✓ To those who know Augustus W. Hayes, Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Sociology in Marshall College, it will not come as a surprise to find from his pen a new Rural Sociology crossing the desk. This book is found in Longmans, Green and Company's Social Science Series, whose General Editor is Ernest R. Groves, Research Professor of Social Science in the University of North Carolina.

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YODER'S INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

✓ Fred R. Yoder, Professor of Rural Social Science at the State College of Washington, is author of the Introduction to Agricultural Economics, recently published in Crowell's Social Science Series, edited by Seba Eldridge, Department of Sociology, University of Kansas. It is interesting to note that Chapter II of Prof. Yoder's book is entitled, "The Farm Population and Farm Life." This would indicate that



Mr. Yoder's interest in rural sociology at the State College of Washington induces him to give prominence to the human factor in agriculture early in his treatment of the economic problems of the farmers. It will be recalled that agricultural economists have been in the habit of writing a closing chapter in their books on the social side of farm life.

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A RECENT REVIEW OF KIRKPATRICK'S FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING.

In the March number of Agricultural Economics Literature, Caroline B. Sherman, editor of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, gives an interesting three-page review of E. L. Kirkpatrick's new book THE FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING. Miss Sherman says in conclusion:

"The book is marked by a judicial and temperate clarity not always found in works on rural sociology. There is abundant evidence that the author has both feet on the ground and that his head is thus entirely clear of the clouds. He uses a scientific approach and treats his subject with scientific judgment and restraint not unmixed with a sympathetic understanding. The field needs more workers of Dr. Kirkpatrick's type."

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RURAL DEPOPULATION IN VIRGINIA.

The Institute for Research in Social Sciences at the University of Virginia has recently published Monograph No. 3, entitled, "Rural Depopulation in Certain Tide-Water and Piedmont Areas of Virginia," by Wilson Gee and J. D. Corson, 3rd. This Monograph is based upon a study of 352 families selected from different social levels, 209 being white families and 143 colored families. An effort was made to study the present migration from these districts and to supplement it with a study of those families remaining. The study was projected, not to develop a program for the solution of the conditions set forth, but to provide objective data in the light of which remedial steps might be more intelligently undertaken.

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### SOCIAL SCIENCE ABSTRACTS.

SOCIAL SCIENCE ABSTRACTS, a Journal of the world's periodical literature in the Social Sciences, put forth its first number in March, 1929. This Journal is published under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council by a large editorial organization of advisory editors and consulting editors. A regular department is given to Sociology, within which appears a section on the Rural Community.

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### SYSTEMATIC SOURCE BOOK IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

The University of Minnesota cooperating with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is committed to an ambitious undertaking in the general interest of the development of the science of rural sociology in the United States. Nothing short of an attempt to collect factual studies bearing quite directly on rural life in the various languages of Europe and Asia and excerpting significant, continuous parts of these studies, translating them into English and organizing them so as to present the subject of rural sociology with proper introductions as a systematic whole is envisaged in this undertaking.

It is expected that when the source-book is completed it will be in three volumes of 600 pages each. The authors will be P. Sorokin, C. C. Zimmerman, and C. J. Galpin. The work will be published by the University of Minnesota Press and issued, presumably, in the summer of 1930.

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### SYMPOSIUM ON CASE-STUDY METHOD.

Several teachers of sociology have been asked to contribute a brief statement on certain aspects of the case-study method of research now much in vogue. In so short a space only the barest hints can be given. However, the symposium will doubtless provide some discussion and the ACTIVITIES will be open in the September issue for questions and volunteer discussion.

### As a Research Technique.

The case-study method, it would seem, has grown out of the re-discovery that there is some continuity in the life of the individual which is lost when his experiences are broken up into bits and treated



as if they were made up of independent units having no closer connection with other elements within the personality than with those outside. The movement toward the use of case-studies represents, thus, a revolt against the segmental approach of statistics in favor of an organic approach which posits an organic, rather than an atomic, relationship between units. That is, the use of the case-study method is based upon the acceptance of an organic psychology which has developed the principle that the organism responds as a whole and not in part as was thought by the "faculty" school of psychologists.

But while having been used at first in the study of individual experiences, the case-study method is quite as applicable to the study of group behavior. All group experiences have some continuity and may, therefore, be studied as a whole instead of being broken up into segments. Thus, while the statistical method is concerned primarily with the analysis of relationships between isolated or particular aspects of a total situation, the case-study method attempts to analyze out of the total situation the whole net-work of relationships.

It is, in fact, this pattern arrangement within case-studies with which the case-study method is primarily concerned. For out of a group of case-studies certain general patterns will be disclosed. From one point of view this will lead to abstract descriptions of structural arrangements; from another, to descriptions of processes. The latter is probably more in keeping with the case-study point of view, since a case-study is in its very nature a dynamic presentation.

The case-study method, however, needs to be used with some caution. Some patterns are much more important than others, because much more frequently encountered. Neither is there any assurance that all, or even the most important, patterns have been discovered unless the sample is large and judiciously selected. And this is where, perhaps, the statistical method becomes the most useful as a complementary method. Statistical methods will be found useful also in measuring the relationship between the processes or patterns discovered through the use of the case-study method.

The case-study and the statistical methods are not, therefore, mutually exclusive, but instead are complementary. The case-study method, thus, reveals processes and patterns which serve as more realistic units than quantitative segments measured in space and time, while the statistical method provides a basis for evaluating the importance of particular processes with reference to each other, a technique for testing the adequacy of samples, and procedures for measuring the relationships between processes.

Ernest R. Mowrer,  
Prof. of Sociology,  
Northwestern University.

From Cases to Perspectives.

The case study aims at the analysis of a concrete limited situation, to find out what is there. When we have taken so many life histories or studied so many families, farms, or communities, we get confused, unless "we sit down and think out what it all means." There are two ways of getting this meaning. The common sense or absorption method, which I understand to be advocated by some of the extreme partisans of the case method, is to use intuition, or whatever it is - perhaps inspiration, or revelation. The other method is to measure and standardize your items, to give them quantitative values where possible. How this is to be done depends on the sorts of cases and items one is dealing with. Biological, economic, physical items generally can be measured and given quantitative values fairly easily; psychological items with greater difficulty, but not impossibility, with the aid of various advancing techniques of analysis. In any case the number of items of the same or approximately the same qualitative value can be counted and generalized as to quantity of kinds or qualities.

A worth while science can never be built upon the study of unrelated cases. These cases must be seen in perspective, as parts of a wider whole. The only way we can see a lot of concrete cases together - make our vision exceed our sensory limitations, which is so necessary in in a complex and highly abstract or derivative world like ours - is to see them abstractly or symbolically. The most accurate and comprehensive way to see a wide range of phenomena symbolically and abstractly is to see them quantitatively. To reduce concrete cases to quantitative terms is to reduce them to the same common denominator. All quantities are directly relative to one another in measurable ratios. The quantitative statement of the items makes it possible to classify them. And classification is the beginning of perspective. More extended statistical generalizations lead to other stages of abstract perspective upon more phenomena than can be seen by the physical eye.

All science is aiming at these wider perspectives of the mind's eye, for the meaning of the individual case can be seen only in terms of the abstract class or perspective of cases. Yet the abstract perspective is made possible only through the counting and classifying of concrete cases. Consequently, I should say that case analysis or description is a necessary and preliminary stage in sociological description and generalization. To make it an end in itself would confine the sociologist to a piecemeal policy of dealing with isolated units for his subject matter. But if cases, or items in cases, are counted and given a numerical value, it then becomes possible to classify and generalize them and to see the whole set of cases or items in perspective. Thus we raise the method of study from a psychological or biological to a sociological level, and at the same time from the analytical to the synthetic, from the qualitative to the quantitative, and from the concrete to the abstract.

L. L. Bernard,  
Prof. of Sociology,  
University of North Carolina.



The Field in Rural Sociology for Case-Study.

The outstanding field in which the case method seems unique is in the analysis and description of the structure and function of different types of groups. If we are to secure a better knowledge of the rural family as a group, there seems no other method than accurately to describe the established patterns of behavior of many family groups and then by comparison determine how these affect the adjustment of members of the family to the family as a group and to society, and the adjustment of the family group to society. It will then be possible to isolate certain types of family structure and patterns of behavior and determine the conditions affecting them and how they affect the behavior of the family group.

The same general procedure seems essential for the sociological description of any type of rural group. We need an accurate description of the established modes of behavior of such rural groups as the grange, the church, the cooperative association. The same considerations apply to the study of communities and community organization; for they are only larger and more complex groups.

It is obvious that in the final study or summarization of an accumulation of case studies, there must be a certain use of the statistical method to describe the frequency and relationships of certain phenomena, and this may even involve complex correlation studies if the quantity and quality of the data be sufficient. Essentially, however, the distinctive methodology of the case method lies in an accurate description of all aspects and conditioning factors of the phenomena being studied, and in establishing descriptive concepts of certain definite and discrete aspects of the phenomena, whose relations to each other and the whole complex are to be determined.

Dwight Sanderson,  
Professor of Rural Sociology,  
Cornell University.

Personal Qualifications of Case-Study.

So long as the research worker in the social sciences deals with statistics he may feel reasonably secure with respect to the validity of his procedures. If he has carefully defined his units so that there is no ambiguity in them, and so long as his methods of statistical manipulation are standard (and better, simple) he is not likely to go astray. Of course he may draw improper inferences, but that is not, thanks to the logical character of human thought, so probable.

In the case-study method, however, there are numerous pitfalls. If the worker is using the case records made by another, their objectivity may be greater, but their interpretation less informed with understanding. The reader's bias may neutralize or emphasize that of the maker, and the combined bias cannot be discovered.

If, on the other hand, the student is making his own records there are certain prerequisites for scientific work which he must observe. He should have clearly worked out beforehand a certain scheme of data which he regards as embodying the crucial questions of his study. In its way this corresponds to the schedule of the statistician, though it must be much more flexible. Such a scheme calls for much preliminary testing of case material and searching analysis of the problem. The data must not be stretched on a Procrustean bed however.

Most important is first-hand knowledge of the situations that lie behind the words of the record - a realistic as opposed to a formalistic knowledge. A sympathetic insight into the human problems presented is vital. And in the analysis one must be on guard against the fallacy of regarding this slice of reality as the universe of reality. No life can be encompassed in a case record or in the greatest novel. And since there is an unconscious tendency to think of the case records as if they were statistical, one must guard against the danger of drawing conclusions from too small a sample. A fine humility toward the results of most case studies befits the maker of them. Their results are bound to be tentative. They have their greatest value in a broadening of the reader's (as well as the researcher's) mind and presenting as varied an approach to the problems as is possible.

C. E. Gehlke,  
Professor of Sociology,  
Western Reserve University.



### A CASE-STUDY OF A ONE-TEACHER SCHOOL.

A special local study on a small scale is in progress this school year in District No. 5, Alamo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. This study is an attempt to make very vivid the daily incidental life in a one-teacher rural school, and to make equally vivid the educational values for both adults and children in the neighborhood, which is included in the district. The teacher is an A. B. graduate of a teachers college, who is personally gifted and also endowed by much experience in comparable situations. She will write an intimate narrative of the individual pupil activities both academic and social, and will make specific the group efforts in which the life of the school and the life of the neighborhood blend. The neighborhood study will show in summarized total the education yielding experiences for each individual, and will attempt to show just what more may be attempted by the school in the life of the neighborhood and what more may be attempted in the neighborhood to enrich the life of the school. This study is based upon the concept that the whole life process in the environment of children and adults constitutes their educational resources. The utilization of this resource in total is the objective aimed at in this study.

The State Education Association is paying part of the salary of the teacher, and the State Department of Public Instruction is to undertake the work and expense of publishing the report. The report is to be distributed as a bulletin to all teachers in the state in small rural schools.

Ernest Burnham,  
Western State Teachers College,  
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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### SOCIAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS.

Fellowship appointments in rural sociology have been awarded recently by the Social Science Research Council to C. Arnold Anderson of the University of Minnesota, taking his Fellowship at Harvard University; Fred C. Frey of the University of Minnesota, remaining at Minnesota; Robert A. Polson of the University of Wisconsin, taking his Fellowship at Cornell University; Thomas Lynn Smith, of the University of Minnesota, remaining at Minnesota; Brandon Trussell teaching at Georgetown University, taking his Fellowship at Harvard University.

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THE RURAL CHURCH AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK - NEW BULLETIN.

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The United States Department of Agriculture issued in January, 1929, Circular No. 57, entitled, "The Rural Church and Cooperative Extension Work, - An Outline of What Extension Work Is And How It May Aid The Rural Church in Community Improvement." This Circular is the outcome of requests from many rural ministers for information as to how the Department of Agriculture can assist the church, and how the church in turn can cooperate for an improved agriculture and country life. The Circular, while limited to twenty-four pages, is illustrated and covers many phases of community relations, such as, beautification of the home grounds, church improvement, farm sanitation, diphtheria campaign, home-bureau libraries, church and school beautification, hospitals and community buildings.

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RURAL LIFE SUNDAY.

The Committee on Rural Work of the Home Missions Council in Atlantic City, January 7, 1929, formally announced the following Resolution:

"Resolved: That the Town and Country Committee of the Home Missions Council invite the Home Missions Council, the Federal Council of Churches, government and farm organizations and people of every name to observe the fifth Sunday after Easter in each year as 'Rural Life Sunday,' such Sunday to be observed in such ways and by such means as church, organization and local conditions suggest."

It is well known that the fifth Sunday after Easter in the church calendar is called Rogation Sunday and is followed by three Rogation days which for centuries have been occasions for supplication in behalf of the fruitfulness of the earth. This move of the Home Missions Council virtually unites all denominational bodies in the United States in a recognition of the same period as a time of special consideration of the problems of agriculture and country life. President Hoover is reported to have highly commended the setting apart of this day.

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RURAL AND URBAN FIGURES SEPARATE IN THE RELIGIOUS CENSUS.

In the last Religious Census, facts have been collected about rural and urban churches separately for the first time. A "rural church" is one situated outside of an incorporated place which in the Census of 1920 had 2,500 inhabitants or more. The bulletins for individual denominations that have already been published give rural and urban figures for each body separately, while the summary volume, soon to be published, it is understood, will show these data by divisions and states.

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FARM POPULATION SMALLEST IN TWENTY YEARS.

The farm population of the United States is now the smallest in twenty years, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, which estimates the farm population at 27,511,000 persons on January 1, 1929, as compared with a peak of 32,000,000 persons in 1909.

The bureau's estimate also shows a decrease in farm population during the past year, despite improved agricultural conditions and a slight slackening in industrial employment, the January 1, 1929, figure comparing with a farm population of 27,699,000 persons on January 1, 1928.

The decrease in farm population the past year would have been much greater were it not offset by an excess of births over deaths, the figures revealing that in the movement of population from and to farms, 1,960,000 persons left farms during the year, and 1,362,000 persons moved from cities to farms.

The large farm birth rate of 23 births per 1,000 persons and small death rate of 8 deaths per 1,000 persons have been large factors offsetting the farm to city movement, so that the net loss of farm population last year was 188,000 persons, compared with 193,000 in 1927, and with 649,000 in 1926.

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NEW YORK FARM POPULATION.

The State Department of Agriculture announces that the number of persons on farms in New York State, February 1, 1929 was 767,000, which is nearly identical with the enumeration in New York of the 1925 Agricultural Census. Five years ago there were 769,000. The decrease in farm population in New York State has apparently been halted.

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RURAL SOCIOLOGY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

During the present session Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner has been teaching rural sociology at Teachers College, Columbia University, with a class of fifty-two students. His work will be expanded the coming year and in addition to the two-point courses in rural sociology and economics he will add three one-point courses in rural surveys, rural community organization and the American village.

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AT THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Dr. John F. Markey, who has been research professor in Rural Sociology at the Connecticut Experiment Station at Storrs for the past year and a half is resigning at the end of June to become head of the Department of Economics and Sociology at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.

The research study "Genesis to Farming Occupations in Connecticut" has been completed and is now ready for the press. It is expected that the bulletins will be ready for distribution in the late summer. A second study growing out of the above study entitled "Population Mobility in Rural Connecticut" is already under way and will be completed at the end of the summer.

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RURAL SOCIAL EXTENSION IN IOWA.

Professor W. H. Stacy of Iowa State College sends in the following:

It is now six years since activities in rural social organization in Iowa were first started under the direction of an extension specialist associated with the Rural Sociology department of the Iowa State College. Work has been developed on the principle of cooperating to further the rural progress which rural people are making through their own rural institutions. The institutions which have received definite consideration are those which are generally accepted as necessary and vital in every community - homes, schools, churches, government and industrial organization. In Iowa, the farm bureau is representing the farmers interests of both the homes and the farm industry. It is under the best of leadership and the state law specifies a working relationship with the Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture out in the county.

In sketching the program in rural sociology extension work attention has usually been called to the fact that something has been done in (1) helping to formulate rural standards, (2) helping to establish rural demonstrations, (3) providing training for rural leaders, (4) arranging for constructive rural tournaments and (5) furnishing helpful service to leaders of community activities. Dealing with such a variety of rural agencies there have been quite a number of (47 in 1928) specific activities.

One of the definite contributions in the way of rural standards has been the standard township farm bureau goal. Five years ago a goal was formulated correlating in the township or community organization the main features of a progressive agricultural program. Arrangements were made for certificates of merit to be given which are signed by both the president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the director of the Iowa State College extension service. The first year the plan was approved by the extension staff, the county agents' association, the home demonstration agents' association and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. No township qualified, however, until the second year and then only one, the next year there were three, in 1927 there were twenty six and last year sixty one. Now the Federation has a goal of at least one standard township farm bureau in every county in 1929.

The significant feature of these goals is in the fact that such local organizations develop progressive activities including boys' 4-H club work for the boys, girls' 4-H club work for the girls, the home projects for the farm women, at least two farm projects for the farm men and community meetings which bring the families together once a month. Sixty per cent of the farmers are members of the farm bureau, there is a complete set of officers and leaders and a yearbook prepared and distributed to all members giving a complete outline of plans. Complete outline of the goal and of about 15 other elements in the development of local organization have been assembled in a document "Guide Book to Township Farm Bureau Development."

AT THE KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Professor Walter Burr has a working arrangement with the National Home Missions Council by which theses dealing with the economic and social status of the rural church in Kansas, offered in satisfaction of the degree of Master of Science, shall be made available to the Council for publicity purposes. Mr. Emmett Allen Smith, graduate assistant in Sociology during the past year, has just completed such a thesis about the rural church in Geary and Riley Counties, Kansas.

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AT THE MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE.

The Inter-City Conference of Social Workers in cooperation with the College will hold the Second Annual Institute during the week July 29-August 2. Two leaders of national repute will give lectures and lead round-table conferences in the administration of social work and related subjects. The emphasis in the Institute this year will be upon Psychiatry in Relation to Social Work.

The annual School for Ministers will open July 15 and close July 27 at the College. The course of study includes along with other subjects, rural social problems and surveys, town and country church organization, agriculture and community recreation.

The Department of Sociology is highly interested in the new national association known as the "Future Farmers of America" clubs in Smith-Hughes High Schools. Michigan has ninety such clubs with a membership of more than 2,500. The Michigan Association of Future Farmers of America was recently formed and affiliated with the national association.

Dr. C. R. Hoffer has an article in the Journal of Social Forces for March, entitled, "Research in the Standard of Living."

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA.

Mr. John Johansen, engaged under the supervision of Professor Gillette in studying rural community conditions in a large number of townships of North Dakota, in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life during the past summer and succeeding months, will take a year of graduate study at the University of Wisconsin next academic year.

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PASTORAL SOCIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME.

A special announcement by the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, states that during the summer session in 1929, courses in pastoral sociology, or parish activities, will be offered among which is a two-credit course on the country parish. It is understood that Dr. Edwin V. O'Hara will give this course.

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ANOTHER DOCTOR'S THESIS COMPLETED.

Professor S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the University of North Carolina has completed his thesis for a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. The thesis is a statistical study of North Carolina, economic and social in character, divided into twenty-six chapters and is about seven hundred pages in length.

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NEW TEACHER AT DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Dr. Herman N. Morse, Survey Secretary of the Home Missions Council, has accepted appointment as lecturer in Rural Sociology at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, beginning with the next academic year. Dr. Morse will offer courses in Rural Sociology, Rural Community Organization, Rural Survey Methods, and Church Methods.

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ZIMMERMAN'S STUDY OF FAMILY LIVING.

The University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station issued in March, 1929 Bulletin 253 entitled "Incomes and Expenditures of Village and Town Families in Minnesota", by C. C. Zimmerman, Department of Sociology. This study of 395 families in 11 communities blazes the way into a more thorough acquaintance with village and town populations. Dr. Zimmerman has followed the Le Play School in an emphasis upon the social character of budgetary studies, believing that the life of every social class may be discovered in its family income and expenditures. Some interesting comparisons are made in the study between town dwellers and farmers. Readers of this bulletin must be prepared to revise their notions of the standard of living among farmers as compared with that found among urban classes.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

The first course in rural standard of living was offered at the State College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, during the past semester. The course was open to upper classmen and graduate students of the University and was in charge of E. L. Kirkpatrick, formerly of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of the Department of Agriculture.

The Windsor Neighborhood Club, representing Dane County, The Algoma Community Club, representing Winnebago County, and the Cherokee Community Club, representing Marathon County, were final contestants in the Wisconsin Rural Adult Home Talent Tournament staged at the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, during Farmers' Week, February 4 - 8, 1929. These groups were the winners through a series of preliminary tryouts involving 19 counties which organized and entered the contest during the past fall and winter.

The Windsor Neighborhood Club, presented "Mother's Old Home," a rural play; The Algoma Community Club presented "A Cup of Tea," a modern comedy; and the Cherokee Community Club presented "That Rascal Pat," an old-fashioned farce. The Windsor Players won first place, the Cherokee players won second place in the final contest.

About 1,500 persons attended the program which was in charge of D. E. Lindstrom, J. H. Kolb, K. L. Hatch, T. L. Bewick and V. V. Varney of the Wisconsin State College of Agriculture. The first home talent tournament of junior (4-H Club) players held at the College of Agriculture also during Farmers' Week drew a large audience. Three groups of players representing three districts of the state appeared on this program. The 4-H Boosters Club, Marinette County, with "Early Ohios and Rhode Island Reds" won first place, in competition with the Fulton 4-H Club of Rock County and the Roberts 4-H group of St. Croix. The Fulton group players presented "Not Quite Such a Goose" and the Roberts group players presented "Station YYYY". Nine counties entered the preliminaries for this contest.



NEWS ITEMS REQUESTED FOR THE ACTIVITIES.

Many comments and helpful criticisms on the "Activities" came into the Division by letter. The limitations under which this sheet is put forth make it impossible to accede to some of the requests. A few fertile suggestions will be incorporated from time to time. Nearly all correspondents indicated that they were pleased with the news items from the various colleges and universities. These items should be timely and should be in the hands of the Division on the first of the month preceding the month of issue. The months of issue are as follows: March, June, September, and December. Those who like to read newsy items should be willing to send in items from their own colleges.

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VACATION SCHOOL AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON. ENGLAND.

The Executive Committee of Le Play House, London, England, is arranging a vacation school or regional study meeting at Stratford-on-Avon in July, 1929, intended primarily for American visitors to England. Stratford-on-Avon is one of the best smaller centers in England for the purpose of a civic and regional survey. It contains examples of every period of town development in England from the 16th Century onward. Furthermore, Stratford is today the vital center of a rural region showing some of the striking features in the English agricultural and rural life of today. The program of the school will be under the direction of Mr. A. F. Farquharson, formerly editor of the Sociological Review. Practical observational studies in the town and its surroundings will be the main activity. Excursions will be made by groups to places of interest in the neighborhood. Specialists will lecture and the evenings will be given to informal discussion. The date of the school is July 10 to July 24, inclusive. Applications for registration and accommodations should be made to the Secretary, Le Play House, 65 Belgrade Road, London.

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EDUCATIONAL PILGRIMAGES TO EUROPE.

The Pocono People's College, situated in Henryville, Pennsylvania, announces a second European study tour from September 1 to December 1, 1929, sailing from New York. Students must have completed the regular three months' course at Pocono or have equivalent training to be eligible for the European study tour. The tour in 1928 headed by Director Mathiasen and chaperoned by his wife included a short time in England, followed by one group's going to Russia, via Finland, and another group to Inter-

national People's College at Elsinore, Denmark. Director Mathiasen headed the Russian pilgrimage and Mrs. Mathiasen directed the Danish group.

Peter Manniche, Director of the International People's College at Elsinore, Denmark, has, it is also announced, induced Professor Le Roy Bowman of Columbia University to lead a study tour to Europe July 3 and returning September 2. The trip is intended for teachers of adult classes, for social and community workers interested in the methods of group training and adult education principles, as well as graduates of adult education schools who are interested in similar schools abroad or in meeting the foreign students. Mr. Manniche will be in charge of the tour in Denmark. Sweden, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Switzerland will be visited.

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#### SWISS NATIONAL COSTUMES.

This is to continue Mr. Borel's statement which appeared in the March issue of "Activities":

In almost every Swiss canton, there was a time when, on Sundays especially, the women would wear very typical, simple, but as a rule beautiful costumes, which would last a life-time. The cheaper stuff, together with the modern fashion, of which must be admitted that it is in some respects more hygienical, has considerably reduced, or even killed, that old custom. For a few years past, a considerable effort has been made by the Swiss Federation for National Costumes, supported by the Swiss Farmers' Union, to bring about a revival of the old conditions. The old costumes have been improved, modernized in order to be wholly hygienical, and the attention of farmers' wives and daughters is drawn to the fact that they are more beautiful and last incomparably longer than the modern dresses. Societies are founded, which hold meetings in the evening once a week and participate at national festivities. The "national costume movement" has besides another great advantage. It gives the best opportunity to exercise and re-learn the old national popular songs, some of which ran the risk of being supplanted by the superficial music of today.

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COMMENT FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"In the year 1927, on the occasion of the International Country Life Conference in East Lansing, Michigan, I personally learned how efficiently and systematically the United States takes care of its agriculture and how intensively it pays attention to the relation between country and cities, between agriculture and industry, and I can say that intercourse with American agricultural workers increased in a high degree my enthusiasm on behalf of agriculture and the country life in general."

Prof. V. Smetanka,  
Secretary of Central Sociological Commission of  
the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture, Prague.

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RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN JAPAN.

Scientific researches since 1880 were carried on as historical studies concerning our village communities, customs in our rural districts and rural buildings. They may be considered as influenced by the German school. Researches of this kind are developing still at present. We can mention Dr. I. Nitrobe, Mr. K. Yanagida, Mr. M. Odauchi, Dr. W. Kon, etc. as the prominent authors of it.

The recent development of the rural survey and rural planning, as well as the rural sociological studies, may be considered as the result of the influence of the American school.

We can mention a few examples of the rural survey and rural planning which are just starting in our country. The rural survey has been made by the Institute of the Agricultural Policy and Economics in the Tokyo Imperial University during the last three years in three prefectures in the different parts of the country. Another rural survey has been carried on by a certain prefecture during the same years in two communities in the prefecture cooperating with the Institute of the Agricultural Economics in the Kyoto Imperial University, and the latter has just started considering the rural planning for these communities. Other rural surveys have been carried on by communities themselves, some of them being comprehensive and quite detailed.

The Ohara Sociological Institute and the Section of the Rural Affairs of the Association of Conciliation are also making some contribution to the rural survey.

As for the publications pertaining to the rural survey and the rural sociology, we can mention those of Dr. S. Nasu, Dr. T. Ono, Dr. E. Yamazaki, etc.

Special lectures concerning the rural sociology have already been given by certain professors and rural leaders, though none of our universities has the regular course of this science yet.

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H. Tanahashi,  
Ass't. Prof. of Agricultural Economics,  
Kyoto Imperial University.



#### FOUR-H CLUBS AND RURAL BOY SCOUTS COOPERATING.

A cooperative agreement has been worked out and accepted in eight states of the Union between the Boy Scouts of America and the Agricultural Extension Service in these states with the purpose of outlining the respective fields of effort covered by Boy Scouts and Four-H Clubs and of insuring the sympathetic cooperation of their leaders in the prosecution of their respective lines of endeavor. The officials in charge of the Boy Scouts and of 4-H Club work believe that a greater number of farm boys may be reached and given a better and broader training if these organizations adhere to a program of cooperation and general understanding. It is agreed that leaders of both organizations will encourage the rural boy to gain the benefits, and enjoy the privileges, that both organizations can provide.

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#### HEALTH CAMPAIGN AMONG RURAL COLORED PEOPLE.

The Fifth Annual Health Campaign conducted by the Cardinal Gibbons Institute, situated at Ridge, St. Mary's County, Maryland, was brought to a close on Sunday, April 7. The first health campaign for the colored people of Southern Maryland was held in the Spring of 1925. Eighty-five families from the immediate vicinity of the Institute went to work to improve their surroundings, creating in other neighborhoods, twenty, forty, or sixty miles distant a desire to join in this type of work. In 1927 it was found that the Institute had reached with its health work approximately 1,000 colored families. An attractive bulletin entitled "Health for the Farmer", with full directions for the campaign, was put out by the Committee in charge, headed by Victor H. Daniel, Principal of the Institute.

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#### RURAL LIBRARY EXTENSION CONFERENCE.

The extension of library service to rural districts through county libraries was the subject of discussion at a conference called by the American Library Association in Chicago, March 26. Forty men and women, agricultural and educational leaders from all parts of the country, representatives of agricultural industries, the Library Extension Committee and the President and Secretary of the American Library Association gathered around a big oval table at the Union League Club, Chicago, for an informal discussion. Among the score of agencies represented were: U. S. Office of Cooperative Extension Work; Bureau of Education; Federal Board of Vocational Education; and the American Farm Bureau Federation, Home and Community Department.

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VALIDITY OF LIFE HISTORIES AND DIARIES.

The Ohio Sociologist of March, 1929, a bulletin of the Ohio Sociological Society, published at the Ohio State University, contains a very intriguing epitome of an article, soon to appear in the Journal of Educational Sociology, by Read Bain, Miami University. Some of the statements of the abstract are as follows:

"The point of view of case work is necessarily personal, moral, artistic. Its emphasis is upon the uniqueness of each case. This is almost diametrically opposed to the point of view of science. We demand that scientists must produce results that can be repeated by competent men using the same methods. Hence it follows that diaries and life histories may be valid techniques for the case worker without necessarily being so for scientists. The case worker makes inferences, gets 'hunches', finds meanings in a particular 'life document' that another person cannot perceive. The 'scientific' use of most life history documents therefore is pure absurdity."



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# FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM  
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 1, 1929.

Vol. III, No. 3.

## THE DIVISION IS TEN YEARS OLD.

The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life has just closed its first ten years of operation, having been authorized in May, 1919, in President Wilson's administration, and a staff set at work June 15, 1919, in charge of C. J. Galpin.

Not more than a dozen research studies of a rural sociological character had been made in agricultural colleges prior to the year 1919. Only five agricultural colleges were offering courses in rural sociology. Two only were giving graduate work in sociology. Now twenty-six agricultural colleges are offering courses; seven are offering graduate courses leading to the doctorate. The product of the Division, measured in print, has been up-to-date more than seventy bulletins, counting both its own and its cooperative bulletins, equivalent to a good-sized book of 400 pages for each of the ten years. In addition, it cooperated in producing four books now in print. Besides it has issued about seventy mimeographed reports, equal to another book a year.

The Division has been influential in three directions: first, in farm population statistics, covering composition, migration, gain or loss on farms; second, farm population natural groupings; third, farm population standards of living. When the Division started, there were no farm population Census figures. It has made strenuous efforts for such basic information in each Census schedule, and has succeeded in some measure. Nor was there ten years ago any considerable information on the nature of farmer groupings, so necessary in any effective organization of farmers for improved production and marketing. Now we know a good deal about the dynamics of the farm community's social structure. The farmer's standard of living was not even a matter of statistical discussion ten years ago. Now we have the basis for thinking upon this important subject, due in part to the Division's role in this field.

The Division has been fortunate in the character of the chiefs of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. To a man they have stood by the Division through the thick and thin of probationary period.

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TWELFTH AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE.

Thursday Afternoon, October 17.

President R.M.Hughes, Iowa State College, Presiding.

Welcome - Governor John Hammill.

Response - Dr. H. C. Taylor, Chairman A.C.L.A. Executive Committee.

Presidential Address - Hon. Frank O. Lowden.

Thursday Evening

8:00 - 1929 Iowa Master Farm Homemaker Recognition - Miss Neale S. Knowles, Iowa State Leader Home Demonstration Agents, Chairman.

Recognition of New Master Farm Homemakers and Responses - Miss Bess Rowe, Farmer's Wife.

Address by Mrs. Chas. A. Sewell, Chairman Home and Community Committee, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Friday Forenoon, October 18.

9:00 - General Session - "Local Rural Community Programs" - Hon. Frank O. Lowden, Presiding.

10:30 - 12:00 - Ten Sectional Meetings.

Friday Afternoon

2:00 - General Session "County Rural Programs" - Mrs. Katheryn Van Aken Burns, Presiding.

3:15 - Ten Sectional Meetings.

4:30 - Presentation of H. C. Wallace Memorial.

Friday Evening

8:00 - "Looking Ahead in Rural Organization" - Chas. E. Hearst, Presiding.

Addresses by Dr. H. C. Taylor, Hon. Frank O. Lowden, L. J. Taber, Master National Grange; M. S. Winder, Secretary, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Saturday Forenoon

9:00 - General Session - "State Rural Programs" - Nat T. Frame, Presiding.

10:00 - Business Session - President Frank O. Lowden, Presiding.

10:45 - Ten Sectional Meetings.



Saturday Afternoon

- 2:00 - General Session - "National Rural Programs" - President Frank O. Lowden, Presiding.  
"The Farmer Movement" - Dr. Carl C. Taylor.  
"The National Farm Program" - Representative of United States Department of Agriculture.  
3:30 - Ten Sectional Meetings.

Saturday Evening

- 6:30 - Annual American Country Life Association Banquet - Mrs. C. C. Schuttler, Vice-President A.C.L.A., toastmistress.  
"International Aspects of Rural Organization" - Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, Honorary President, A.C.L.A.  
"Interdependence of Country and City Life" - Mrs. Josephine Corless Preston, Former President of National Education Association.  
"Contributions of this Conference to Rural Organization" - Dean A. R. Mann, Cornell University.

Rural Life Sunday, October 20  
Forenoon

Rural Life Sermons in Ames Churches.

Afternoon

- 4:00 - Final Session - arranged jointly with Iowa State College Chapel Service and broadcast.  
"Rural Social Justice" - Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Dean Graduate School, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Preceding and Related Conferences.

Annual Extension Conference - Ames  
Master Farmer and Master Farm Homemaker Meetings - Ames  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference - Des Moines  
National Meeting, Town and Country Committee, Home Missions Council - Ames  
Iowa Library Association Annual Meeting - Des Moines  
State Meeting, Community Church Workers - Des Moines

Succeeding and Related Conferences.

Annual Meeting - State Conference of Social Work - Marshalltown, October 20 - 22.

Sections of the 12th American Country Life Association Conference.

1. - Adult Education - John D. Willard, American Association for Adult Education, Chairman; Miss Fannie A. Gannon, Extension Service, Iowa State College, Secretary.
2. - Economic Cooperation - Chas. W. Holman, Secretary, the American Institute of Cooperation, Chairman; S. H. Thompson, Extension Service, Iowa State College, Secretary.
3. - General Farm Organization Programs - J. R. Hutchinson, Virginia Extension Service, Chairman; Miss Hazel Brown, Extension Service, Iowa State College, Secretary.
4. - Government and Taxation - Chas. E. Hearst, President Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Chairman; Miss Grace Zorbaugh, Economics Department, Iowa State College, Secretary.
5. - Health and Social Welfare Programs - E. L. Morgan, Missouri University, Chairman; Miss Ruth Cessna, Extension Service, Iowa State College, Secretary.
6. - Rural Landscaping and Recreation - Miss Betty Eckhardt, Extension Service, West Virginia University, Chairman; J. R. Fitzsimmons, Iowa State College Extension Service, Secretary.
7. - Rural Press Programs in Rural Organization - Dan Wallace, St. Paul, Minn., Chairman; Blair Converse, Technical Journalism Department, Iowa State College, Secretary.
8. - Rural Religious Organizations - Malcolm Dana, Town and Country Committee, Home Missions Council, Chairman; L. Myron Boozer, Ames, Iowa, Secretary.
9. - Rural School Programs - Miss Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Des Moines, Iowa, Chairman; H. M. Hamlin, Vocational Education Department, Iowa State College, Secretary.
10. - Urban-Rural Relations - Nat T. Frame, Director of Extension, West Virginia University, Chairman; Frank Paine, Engineering Department, Iowa State College, Secretary.

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THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

The International Country Life Commission (Commission internationale de l'Embellissement de la vie rurale) held its third Congress in Budapest, May 31 to June 4, under the auspices of the Hungarian Government. The Commission was founded in Belgium in 1925. Dr. Paul De Vuyst played the leading role in its creation. The first Congress was held in Brussels in July 1926. The second met in East Lansing, Michigan, in 1927. Delegates from eighteen countries participated in the Budapest meetings. The discussions there indicate an ever increasing circle of interested workers in this new, and in Europe, somewhat hazily recognized field.

The program of the Congress was divided into three parts:



1. What is the present status of rural leadership and how should it be developed in the future?
2. How should educational and extension work be organized from a rural life point of view?
3. What is the significance of the present agrarian reforms from the standpoint of rural life questions?

Although only one delegate from the United States was able to be present, (Asher Hobson, American Delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome) three papers were submitted to the conference by members of the rural sociology group of this country. C. J. Galpin contributed a report upon rural leadership. John D. Willard dealt with extension courses from the standpoint of country life improvement. Benson Y. Landis covered the country life developments in America in their relation to national movements. The papers submitted to the Congress are contained in Bulletin No. 7 de la Commission internationale de L'Embellissement de la vie rurale. Each paper appears in the language in which it was submitted.

One of the accomplishments of the Congress was the adoption of the statutes which had been passed along in tentative form by the two preceding conferences. An important provision of the statutes as adopted provides that the President shall be elected at each Congress, and that the President-elect must be a citizen of the country in which the next Congress is to be held. This arrangement results in a rotation in the office of president - an essential practice in the control and management of international scientific organizations. There are six vice-presidents. Three are elected at each Congress. Vice-Presidents are not eligible for immediate re-election.

The present officers and their nationality are: President Graftiau, Belgium; vice-presidents, Von Lindequist, Germany; Ricard, France; Schandl, Hungary; Beretta, Italy; Lutoslawsky, Poland; Butterfield, U.S.A.; secretary treasurer, Giele, Belgium.

The next Congress is to be held in Liege, Belgium, in 1930, at the time of the celebration commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the independence of Belgium. It has been suggested that the Chicago World's Fair Centennial Celebration might offer a favorable opportunity for a meeting of the Commission in this country.

Asher Hobson.

FINANCING THE INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.

At the Budapest Conference of the International Country Life Commission last June Mr. Asher Hobson was made Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Hobson says that much against his inclination he felt that it was necessary to assume the obligation of Chairman and attempt to raise \$700 for the Commission. The method proposed is through individual associate memberships with twenty gold francs per year (\$4.00) as the dues. This membership entitles the holders to all the privileges of the Congress and to receive all of the publications of the Commission. Since nearly the whole of the expense of the Commission goes to defray publication costs, members receive substantial returns for their money. Mr. Hobson says that "If the Commission is to exist as a going concern we must have no less than one hundred members from America." Applications for membership accompanied by check will be received by Mr. Hobson during the coming year at the following address: C/o College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

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THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AT SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

In an address in Syracuse, New York, August 28, at the Annual Farm Dinner given by J. D. Barnum, editor of the Syracuse Post Standard, Secretary Arthur M. Hyde, in a strong statement on the need for universal public education, made the following statement: "I maintain that the cities with their wealth and population owe a duty to help carry the burden of supporting the country schools which will equalize educational opportunity."

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MOVEMENT OF POPULATION IN 1930 CENSUS.

There is a high probability that the U. S. Population Census for 1930 will include the movement of persons from the farm to town and city and the movement of persons from town and city to the farm. This set of facts by states and for the United States will furnish a very valuable base for the annual estimates of mobility during the succeeding decade.

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AT CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Professor Hypes announces the appointment of Professor Carroll D. Clark to fill the vacancy made by Dr. Markey's resignation. Mr. Clark has almost completed his Doctorate in Sociology at Chicago University.

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AT COLORADO STATE COLLEGE.

Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick gave one course in General Sociology and one in Rural Sociology with emphasis on rural standards of living at the summer session of the Colorado Agricultural College this summer. The number of students in each course was twenty.

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ANOTHER DOCTORATE.

Professor B. F. Coen has completed his requirements for the doctor's degree at the University of Missouri having majored in rural sociology. His thesis, just finished, had for its title, "The Social Status of the Spanish in Rural Colorado."

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AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

Four men who majored in the Department of Rural Social Organization in the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in June. These were Walfred A. Anderson, Professor of Sociology, North Carolina State College, whose thesis was on "A Study of Farm Family Living Among White Owners and Tenant Operators in Wake County, North Carolina, 1926"; Mr. Hasham Amir Ali, whose thesis was on "Social Changes in the Hyderabad State in India as Affected by the Influence of Western Culture"; Mr. Robert Geib Foster, Field Agent in Boys' and Girls' Club Work, Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, whose thesis was on "Types of Farm Families and Some Effects of 4-H Club Work on their Structure"; Mr. Harold Charles Hoffsommer whose thesis was on "The Relation of Cities and Larger Villages to Changes in Rural Trade and Social Areas in Wayne County, New York."

Mr. R. I. Schumacher, recently a graduate assistant at the North Carolina State College, has been appointed an assistant in the Department of Rural Social Organization in the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, and assumed his duties August 1st.

Mr. Howard W. Beers and Harold F. Dorn, who graduated from the New York State College of Agriculture in February, 1929, have been appointed assistants in the Department of Rural Social Organization.

The Cornell Summer School for Town and Country Ministers was held July 22 to August 2, and had a registration of 85. In many ways it was the most successful school which has yet been held.

The following bulletins are now in the process of publication by the New York State College of Agriculture, from the Department of Rural Social Organization:

1. Rural Population in Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York, 1925. B. L. Melvin.
2. Village Service Agencies, New York, 1925. B. L. Melvin.
3. Social Relations of Slaterville Springs-Brooktondale Area. Glenn Bakkum and B. L. Melvin.
4. A Partial Sociological Study of Dryden Village. B. L. Melvin and Gladys L. Kensler.
5. Rural Health, R. A. Felton and Nina V. Short.

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AT KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Dr. Randall C. Hill has joined the staff of Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, as professor of sociology, filling the place of Professor Walter Burr who has gone to the University of Missouri. Mr. Hill did his undergraduate work at Kansas State, and also received his Master's degree from that institution. After teaching Sociology and Economics in high school for three years, he entered the University of Missouri and in August 1929 completed his work for the doctorate in Rural Sociology.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.

Professor Walter Burr, formerly in charge of sociology at the Kansas State Agricultural College, has been added to the staff of the Department of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri. He will be in charge of training for Rural Public Welfare work. Mr. Burr had his college training at Knox, the University of California, Kansas State Agricultural College and the University of Missouri, specializing in theoretical and applied social sciences. He has had technical social service experience in settlement work, family welfare work and juvenile court activities in San Francisco, Kansas City and Chicago, and has had rural service experience as director of the Rural Service Department of the Extension Division of Kansas State Agricultural College for seven years.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

The Rural Leadership Summer School for Clergy had a record attendance of about one hundred and fifteen. They were from twenty states and represented eight national church bodies. Five persons were given certificates indicating completion of three summers of work, together



with the completion of a project in their home communities which received the approval of their church administration officers and the class-room instructor. In the whole group were about thirty women, both lay and professional church and community workers. They attended some of the regular classes and had a few designed for their own purpose. The leadership school was held in conjunction with an institute for dramatics, under the auspices of the Extension Division, and a conference on library methods, under the auspices of the State Library Commission.

Arthur F. Wileden who was formerly a graduate student and assistant in the Rural Life Division of the University of Wisconsin, and who spent the past year in graduate study at Cornell University on a Social Science Research fellowship, returned to the University of Wisconsin September 1 as Extension Specialist in Rural Life. Mr. Wileden's time will be given to supervision of Home Talent Tournaments, Rural Leadership Schools, and other rural organization projects.

David E. Lindstrom, who was full-time specialist in the field of Rural Life at the University of Wisconsin this past year, has accepted a position of Research and Extension Specialist in Rural Sociology with the State College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. In his new position Mr. Lindstrom will give half time to research and half time to extension work in Rural Organization.

The major project in research in the Division of Rural Life, University of Wisconsin, for the present year is a cooperative study of the Farmers' Standard of Living in Wisconsin. The purpose of the study is to measure content and adequacy of Farmers' Standards of Living in selected localities representing the principal farming type areas of the state and to determine the relation of certain selected factors to the prevailing standard of living. Among these factors are income patterns of the family, the quality and character of family living furnished by the farm; present savings and investment patterns and size and composition of the family. Divisions or departments cooperating with the Division of Rural Life in conducting this study are: Farm Management and Home Economics, University of Wisconsin, and Divisions of Farm Population and Rural Life and Farm Management and Costs, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The first unit of the field work involving the visitation of 120 farm families by both a family living and a farm management field worker is completed, and the second is under way.

Lowry Nelson of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, and S. H. Hobbs of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, are scheduled for thesis examinations for the Ph. D. degree in Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin about September 1. The title of Mr. Nelson's thesis is: The Mormon Village - A Study in Social Origins. Mr. Hobbs' thesis title is: North Carolina - Economic and Social.



A Re-study of the Walworth County Service Areas. The service areas of Walworth County, Wisconsin, studied and mapped by Dr. Galpin fifteen years ago, are being resurveyed this summer by Robert A. Polson, a graduate student in Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin. This check-up on changes in the alignments of rural people in Walworth County is being used as a point of departure for a doctorate thesis on social change.

The new maps constructed on the basis of 1929 will be superimposed upon Dr. Galpin's maps of 1914 in order to obtain an indication of shifts in service areas. With this structure as a background, a study will be made of the processes that exist to bring about change in the county.

Mr. Polson who is studying on a Social Science Research Fellowship will attend the University of Chicago during the fall and winter, where he will do the major part of his work with Dr. Ogburn.

#### ITALY RESTRICTS RURAL POPULATION MOVEMENT.

It is reported from Italy that as a measure calculated to promote agriculture, and in view of the large migration of people from the country districts to the cities, the Government took steps looking to restricting and discouraging the movement of farm people to the cities. Regulations based on a policy of "Back to the Land" were established permitting the departure of people from rural communities for the cities only in special authorized cases, while on the other hand employers of labor in cities were forbidden to give employment to farm laborers whenever the work could be performed by regular city dwellers. It is expected that the carrying out of this program against further urbanization, which had attained very alarming proportions in certain parts of the country, (some of the large cities such as Milan, in the last several years increasing in population at a striking rate) will achieve the double result of improving living conditions in the already crowded cities by a lessened influx of country people, and at the same time increase the supply of labor in agricultural pursuits where it is most needed.

#### EXODUS OF FRENCH FARMERS.

Mr. Prosper Blanc, Secretary of the House Committee on Agriculture and Vice President of the Group of Agriculturists in the Chamber of Deputies, has recently introduced a bill tending to check the exodus of the rural population of France towards the cities. The bill provides for the creation of a National Bureau of Agricultural, Economic and Social Research to devise the means of checking the rural exodus in France. This Bureau would be attached to the



Ministry of Agriculture, presided over by the Minister himself, and its members partly appointed by the Minister and partly elected by Departmental Committees which would be established in each Department of France. Under the Departmental Committees, local posts constantly in close touch with the rural population, would be organized.

The National Bureau and its departmental sections would study all questions regarding the equipment of rural boroughs with water, gas, electricity and telephone; all matters pertaining to the improvement of legislation, especially as regards inheritance, access to small land ownership, and agricultural loans; and finally a complete program for the improvement of intellectual life in the country with the introduction therein of all the advantages which constitute so far the privileges of large urban centers.

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#### AN ENGLISH 14th CENTURY REGIONAL SURVEY.

The Sociological Review for July, 1929, issued by LePlay House Press, London, contains an interesting utilization of the lists of poll tax-payers of the year 1379, arranged by villages within wapentakes or other larger areas; the tax being graduated according to social position and work, and ranging from ten marks to four-pence on the humble laborer and servant. The writer of the article was enabled from the lists to classify the villages of Yorkshire into rural, artisan, and marketing centers.

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#### LEPLAY HOUSE AND THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual dinner of members and friends of LePlay House and the Sociological Society will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, 1929, at 8 p.m. at LePlay House, London, England. The Annual Conference will be held from Friday, November 1st, at 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, November 3rd, 1929. The Annual Exhibition of Survey Materials will be on view during the Conference.

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#### COMMONWEALTH FUND RURAL HOSPITAL PROGRESS.

Construction is being completed and preliminary organization undertaken in four of the units of the rural hospital program, namely, the Community Hospital, Glasgow, Kentucky; the Franklin County Memorial Hospital, Farmington, Maine; the Community Hospital, Beloit, Kansas; and the DeEtt Harrison Detwiler Memorial Hospital, Wauseon, Ohio. The first of these to open is the Franklin County Memorial Hospital, Farmington, Maine.

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COUNTY LIBRARY LEGISLATION.

The Library Extension News reports that in 1929 the following states passed County Library Laws permitting counties to establish libraries: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Oklahoma and Tennessee (Delaware law is for New Castle County only; the Tennessee law replaces one whose constitutionality was questioned). The following states are without such permissive legislation: Florida, Georgia, Idaho, North Dakota, Washington.

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SOCIAL RESEARCH: A STUDY IN METHODS OF GATHERING DATA.

Longmans, Green and Co. have just issued under the editorship of Ernest R. Groves, in the Longmans Social Science Series, a book dealing with research methods in Social Sciences. The author is Prof. George A. Lundberg of the University of Pittsburgh. It is of interest to teachers of rural sociology to know that the book is dedicated "To John M. Gillette, my first teacher." Among the chapters are noted the following: The Principal Methods of Social Research; Case Studies and the Statistical Method; The Measurement of Attitudes; the Measurement of Social Institutions; The Standardization of Social Statistics.

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RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: A SERIES OF LECTURES.

The MacMillan Company has recently published a small volume, entitled, "Research in the Social Sciences, Its Fundamental Methods and Objectives," edited by Wilson Gee of the University of Virginia. This volume consists of a series of lectures given at the University of Virginia on the following topics: Sociology, by Robert Ezra Park; Economics, by Allyn Abbot Young; Anthropology by Clark Wissler; Statistics, by Robert Emmet Chaddock; Psychology, by Robert Sessions Woodworth; Jurisprudence, by Roscoe Pound; History, by Arthur Meier Schlesinger; Philosophy, by John Dewey; Political Science, by Charles Austin Beard.

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A NEW BOOK: RECENT ECONOMIC CHANGES.

The report of the third national survey in three volumes resulting from the President's Conference on Unemployment of 1921, contains a section in Vol. I, Chapter I, by C. J. Galpin, in charge of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, entitled "The Standard of Living of the Farm Population." These surveys were set up to enlarge the general understanding of the country's economic system and to stimulate the continuing reduction of unemployment. The first was the study of Business Cycles and Unemployment made in 1922-23 for a committee of the Unemployment Conference; the second was a study of Seasonal Operation in



the Construction Industries made in 1923-24 for another committee of the Conference. President Hoover was chairman of the committee for the present survey.

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#### RURAL TRADE CENTERS BULLETIN.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Minnesota has recently published a study, made by Dr. C. R. Hoffer now of the State Agricultural College of Michigan, in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, as Minnesota Bul. No. 249 entitled "Services of Rural Trade Centers in Distribution of Farm Supplies." Prof. H. Bruce Price is co-author of the bulletin with Dr. Hoffer.

The rather startling statement is made in this bulletin that "the non-departmentized general store and consequently the small trade center are maintained at a degree of waste to the community. The average mark-ups are higher in the smaller trade centers than in the large ones. The average dry goods, shoes, and hardware could have been bought at the stores specializing in them at the larger centers at an average mark-up of 20.2 per cent, thus saving 3.7 per cent."

"When it is remembered that the average community in this study spent from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each year for such commodities as groceries, shoes, and dry goods; the saving of \$1.30 for each purchase of \$100 becomes significant. If it is assumed that the amount purchased is only \$500,000 the saving amounts to \$6,506. For a million-dollar purchase it would amount to \$13,000. There is much complaint about lack of funds for community center houses, good schools, and other improvements in rural communities. Yet by supporting, as many communities do, small competing trade centers with small, inefficiently managed stores, the rural communities are losing voluntarily the amount necessary to supply community center buildings or other institutions of social value."

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#### COMMUNITY DRAMATIC CONTEST IN NEW YORK STATE.

The Third Annual Dramatics Contest will be held in 1929-30 culminating at Farm and Home Week at the New York State College of Agriculture, February, 1930. Eighteen counties have entered the contest. Any bona fide community group in the state of New York is eligible for this contest. Community groups will compete for county honors in their various counties, and county winners will later compete with other county winners in their own section of the State. The winners of these contests will in turn compete in the county contest if the winner is to be eligible to compete in an inter-county contest.

Plays for the contest must be approved by the State Contest Committee. The Loan Library of the Department of Rural Social Organization at the College offers a list of 100 plays which may be borrowed:

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NEW MONTANA BULLETINS.

The following bulletins from Montana have been issued in co-operation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life: The County Library in Montana, Bul. No. 219, January, 1929, by J. Wheeler Barger; Rural Community Halls in Montana, Bul. No. 221, January, 1929, by J. Wheeler Barger.

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NEW SOCIOLOGICAL MONOGRAPH.

Another Social Science Research Council Monograph, entitled RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ADULT EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES, is ready for distribution. This deals with the subject of research from the point of view of utilization in an extension program; or, perhaps, a clearer statement is that it deals with rural sociological extension programs from the point of view of research. At any rate the Monograph seeks to lay the course in research for a thorough-going extension program in rural sociology. The authors are C. J. Galpin, B. L. Hummel, C. E. Lively, C. C. Zimmerman, acting under the direction of the Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture, of which Dr. H. C. Taylor was chairman up to October 1, 1929. One copy of the Monograph will be placed in each agricultural college library, and also one in the hands of each director of Extension. The edition is quite limited.

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A UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS OF TOWN AND SMALL CITY.

The importance of the small town is being recognized. This fact was demonstrated at the University of Minnesota, June 24-28, 1929, when a number of business men, educators, economists, sociologists, editors, and teachers met on the campus of this institution to consider problems of small towns. The principal subjects discussed were: (1) the future of the town from an economic and commercial standpoint (2) town administration, finance and taxation (3) sociological problems and (4) public health. The objective of the conference was to find facts and trends regarding towns, - it was the belief of those who planned the conference that a program for the small town would eventually emerge as the facts about it became known. Accordingly the conference was divided into two parts. First, a series of meetings of a general nature were held where papers were presented and discussed. Second, a group of people who had been studying problems of the small town met in round table conferences and attempted to correlate and organize their ideas and studies into a coherent whole.

The general sessions revealed a chaotic situation in regard to towns. Some were growing in business influence and population, others declining and some apparently, were in a static condition. Leadership



and business acumen were important factors but were effective only when they harmonized with basic, fundamental changes and forces. If expended in opposition to these forces they were ineffective. Among the conclusions reached in the round table conferences the following were of special interests to rural sociologists:

I. The major services of rural towns are (1) to distribute merchandise to rural people; (2) to be a center for assembling farm produce; (3) to process or manufacture some of the farm products; (4) to maintain banking and other financial facilities; (5) to be a center for certain professional, education and social services.

II. These services are not carried on independently, but usually in conjunction with one another. Furthermore, one town may not supply all of them, because there is an important relationship between the population of the town and its trade territory and the services it may offer.

III. When a town has insufficient population to offer a certain type of service, the logical course to pursue is to cooperate with other towns until the service can be secured. This trend is shown now by the consolidation of schools, newspapers, churches, chain store management, and the development of state organizations to serve towns.

IV. Hence, the organization of the town has two aspects: (1) the organization of people and agencies in the town itself and (2) the organization of the town in relation to other towns. The latter type of organization may be designated as "area organization."

V. The role of the town as a manufacturing center is separate and distinct from the services listed under point number one. Before a town engages in a manufacturing enterprise a careful and intensive survey needs to be made of all pertinent facts.

VI. The cooperate form of organization, as manifested in chain stores, chain banks, mail order houses, etc., may be, and often is, a distinct advantage to small towns, in so far as it is more efficient than businesses owned and operated in other ways. Provision has been made to have the proceedings of the conference published. The publication will probably be available in a couple of months.

C. R. Hoffer

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THIRD ANNUAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

Round tables on "The Country Life of the Nation" and "The Task of the Country Church" formed a part of the program of the Third Annual Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, August 4-17, 1929. The first of these was led by Professor E. C. Branson of the University of North Carolina and the following list of topics and speak-

ers made up the program: The Factors in the Retention of Farm Wealth, Dr. James E. Boyle, Cornell University, Prof. C. E. Allred, University of Tennessee; Farm Group Activities: Necessities, Values, Obstacles in the United States and the South, Mr. Ben T. Gunter, Pres. Eastern Shore Produce Exchange, Dr. E. C. Branson, University of North Carolina; The Cityward Drift of Country Populations: Cause and Consequences, Mr. Leon E. Truesdell, Bureau of the Census, Prof. E. C. Young, Purdue University; The Farm Family: What it Contributes to the Nation, Miss Florence Ward, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Miss Julia Connor, Better Homes in America; The Country School with a Social Vision, Dr. Fanny Dunn, Columbia University, Dr. E. W. Knight, University of North Carolina; Country Community Life: Little Country Towns and What They May Do For Their Surrounding Trade Areas, Dr. J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin and Dr. Newell L. Sims, Oberlin College.

The round table on the Country Church was under the leadership of Dr. Henry W. McLaughlin, Country Church Director of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The topics discussed and the speakers are as follows: How to Discover the Rural Community and its Problems, Dr. Herman N. Morse, Director of Surveys, Home Missions Council, Prof. C. H. Hamilton, Asst. Prof. Rural Sociology, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station; The Functions of the Country Church (a) Worship (b) Preaching (c) Religious Education (d) Social Service, Dr. J. W. Perry, Exec. Sect., Home Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Rev. C. M. Hanna, Pastor, New Providence Church, Rockbridge Co., Va.; The Country Church and the Ministry of Healing, Dr. W. S. Rankin, Director Hospital and Orphan Sections, Duke Endowment, Dr. J. C. Rowan, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Concord, N. C.; The Rural Minister, Dr. F. D. Goodwin, Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Warsaw, Va., Dr. J. C. Siler, Pastor, Tinkling Spring Church, Fisherville, Va.; The Recreational Life of Country Young People, Dr. Edwin V. O'Hara, Director of Rural Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Dr. J. M. Walker, Pastor, Steele Creek Church, Charlotte, N. C.; The Future of the Country Church, Dr. Rolvix Harlan, Prof. of Sociology, University of Richmond, and Dr. G. A. Wilson, Jr., Pastor, Royal Oak Presbyterian Church, Marion, Va.

The meeting of the Institute was a splendid success, and marks a great advance over that of preceding years. Over a thousand members and visitors were registered from thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico, and eight foreign countries, Canada, Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela, Spain and the Irish Free State.

Wilson Gee



PROGRESS OF COMMITTEE ON COST OF MEDICAL CARE.

The Committee on the Cost of Medical Care was organized some two years ago to study the economic aspects of the care and prevention of illness with a view to making recommendations for supplying more adequate medical service for all the people. The program as now outlined comprises twenty-eight studies. Four of these have been completed and will be published in the fall; seven are under way; and four more are planned for the near future.

One of the studies now being made consists of a series of comprehensive surveys of medical services in communities of various sizes. A study of Philadelphia is almost finished and a survey of Shelby County, Indiana was completed in August. These will include not only the public health aspects but also careful consideration of the work of private practitioners and the so-called irregular practitioners of various kinds. The study of the rural community will provide valuable information on some of the medical problems of rural communities. It will consider the extent of preventive medicine; the adequacy of hospital service, of medical, dental and nursing service; the extent of specialization among practitioners and the quality of medical services available in rural communities.

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INSTITUTE OF RURAL AFFAIRS, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

More than 1,500 farm men and women attended the first Institute of Rural Affairs ever held in America at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, July 30 to August 2. The Institute was held in conjunction with the State Agricultural Advisory Council, the Virginia Homemakers Association, and the Farmer's Institute of Virginia. It grew out of the discussion of the need of such an institute made by C. C. Taylor at the last meeting of the American Country Life Association.

The program was built around three points of interest: Economic problems of the farmer, rural living standards, and farm power and machinery. The economics section of the discussions was ably led by Dr. E. G. Nourse. Lively and stimulating discussion in this section was provoked by speeches on tariff, taxation, and agricultural surplus disposal plans by Clyde L. King, Mark Graves, W. J. Spillman, and Dr. Nourse.

The Discussions on rural living standards progressed vigorously under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Carl C. Taylor who declared that the sessions of the Institute were the best he had ever attended in this section of the country; C. C. Zimmerman and Wilson Gee discussed the effect of farm migration on farm living standards; E. L. Earp, F. D. Goodwin, Henry W. McLaughlin and C. H. Hamilton were responsible for a very lively session on the rural church; while B. L. Hummel and several farm organization leaders raised some very vital questions as to community organization and living standards.

C. Horace Hamilton

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PREPARATION FOR A NATIONAL STUDY OF THE COST OF LIVING.

A committee of the Social Science Research Council under the direction of Prof. W. F. Ogburn of the University of Chicago, is preparing a report on scope and method of a possible nation-wide cost of living survey, covering all classes of population.

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REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE OF RURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.

Dean H. W. Mumford of Illinois has been added to the Sub-Committee of Rural Social Organization, concerning research on the Purnell fund.

The following research projects under the Purnell fund, have been approved by the Office of Experiment Stations: University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, "Farmers Retail Trading Towns and Trading Basins"; North Carolina Agricultural Station, "A Study of the Influence of Community Factors upon Family Living upon White Farm Owners and Tenants, in Wake County, 1928."

The Committee on Projects and Correlation of Research of the Land Grant College Association, and the Office of Experiment Stations has approved the proposal of holding an Institute for research workers in Rural Social Organization, under the Purnell Act, in Washington in 1930. This will probably be held during the Spring vacation, for a week.

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RURAL SOCIOLOGISTS DEBTORS TO DR. COOLEY.

The death of Prof. C. H. Cooley, University of Michigan, brings to rural sociologists a sense of loss and of deep obligation. They were just beginning to realize what his wisdom meant for rural sociology. His insight into the far-reaching influence of the "face-to-face" relations in "primary groups" struck out a path in sociology for the development of a theory which has important implications for rural sociology, - so important, in fact, that it may well be held that the outstanding face-to-face relationships of agricultural and rural life are imbedded by tradition so deeply in human society, that the present core of human behavior is still rural; in spite of the vast prestige of industry and city life, which has towered over civilization only since day before yesterday, so to speak.

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# FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM  
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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December 1, 1929.

Vol. III, No. 4.

## MEMORIAL TO FORMER SECRETARY WALLACE.

Memorial services to the late Henry C. Wallace were a high spot in the American Country Life Conference at Ames, Iowa, October 17-20.

The memorial consists of a stately grove of matured maples on the campus of the State College of Agriculture, in the midst of which is set a large granite boulder bearing a bronze tablet. The tablet reads as follows:

### HENRY CANTWELL WALLACE

"As editor, he worked for a richer and happier rural life; as secretary of agriculture, he provided an economic service for the American farmer; as prophet, he saw in the fertile lands of the corn belt the basis of a rural civilization finer than any the world has yet known; he died laboring to bring nearer the day of its coming."

A representative audience of about 1,000 people, nearly 300 of whom were farmers, surrounded the trees during the services. Dr. H. C. Taylor, who served in Mr. Wallace's administration as Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, acted as chairman of the services, which were broadcast by radio. Dr. Taylor and intimate Iowan friends of the former Secretary addressed the assembly.

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## THE TWELFTH COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE.

Persons who did not attend the Twelfth American Country Life Conference at Iowa State College, Ames, October 17-20, should obtain from Director R. K. Bliss, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, a mimeograph copy of Dean A. R. Mann's eight-page summary and interpretation of the whole conference. Dean Mann's unique statement concludes with the following striking sentiments:

"This conference has again focussed attention on the need for a clearly formulated and adequate country life program. If such a program is to lay any claim to adequacy, it must grow out of, match, and be appropriate to the essential life interests of this individual farm man and woman. It must aim to secure, for those who live on the land, a steadily increasing aggregate and a juster proportion of the higher levels of wealth, health, knowledge, beauty, sociability, and righteousness which characterize American progress and which we have come to associate with superior personal well-being. For twelve years these annual association meetings have been sowing the seed of such a comprehensive concept, the need for its formulation in concrete, practical terms, and the association of all the power of rural organization represented in the many special interest groups, in a deliberate, sustained, coordinated, and aggressive forward movement for its accomplishment.

The development of unity of action by rural people comparable to that in other occupations is impossible without a program. Every rural region in America needs a program, with the better life as the objective. The program should include production, distribution, and life. The present need is a plan of action and a widespread impulse on the part of rural people to secure for themselves the physical and the psychic elements of a satisfying life. The essential elements of such a program have been made clear in this and former conventions of the American Country Life Association. Any program for building a finer rural civilization must center about the securing of better incomes for farm people and the utilization of income in securing the basic conditions of a healthful, wholesome, cultured life. Who will lead the way in each community?

Perhaps the significant utterances and viewpoints of this conference can be finally summarized in two brief words. One is the interdependence of the individual and the group, expressed in those famous lines of Kipling:

'Now this is the law of the jungle - as old and as true as  
the sky;  
'And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf  
that shall break it must die.  
'As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk the law runneth  
forward and back--  
'For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength  
of the wolf is the pack.'

The other is those famous words of Dr. H. C. Taylor at the opening of this convention: 'Efficiency in production; justice in distribution; success in living--these three; and the greatest of these is success in living.'"



CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE.

The seventh annual meeting of the Catholic Rural Life Conference was held at Des Moines, Iowa, October 15-17. A full report of the Conference is contained in the November issue of CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE. This periodical is published at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. The editor is Prof. Frank O'Hara.

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RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION OF THE ANNUAL AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Tentative Program

Friday, December 27, 1929.

12:30 - 3:00 Luncheon Meeting.

Rural Sociology Section and American Farm Economic Association  
"The Farm Child" - Hon. A. M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture  
(not confirmed)

Saturday, December 28.

J. H. Kolb, Univ. of Wisconsin - Chairman

10:00 - Structure of the Rural Community with a View to Adequacy and Reorganization.

"Special Interest Groups in a Plan of Rural Organization" -- 20 minutes, Arthur F. Wileden, University of Wisconsin

"Factors Which Determine Area and Structure in the Rural Community" 20 minutes, Dwight Sanderson, New York State College of Agriculture

Discussion by J. H. Kolb ----10 minutes

Discussion from the floor ----- 10 minutes

11:00 - General Projects

"Rural Organizations Affecting Farm Youth" ----- 10 minutes  
William V. Dennis, Pennsylvania State College

"Vocational Genesis to Farming Occupations in Connecticut"--- 10 minutes, J. L. Hypes, Connecticut Agricultural College

"The Family in Relation to Rural Organization" ---- 10 minutes  
E. L. Kirkpatrick, University of Wisconsin

"Foreign-born Farmers and their Children" ----- 10 minutes  
Edmund deS. Brunner, Institute of Social and Religious Research

Discussion from the floor,---- 10 minutes

12:30 - 3:00 Luncheon Meeting.

"Relationships and Needs in Rural Sociology in Research, Extension, and Teaching."

"From the Standpoint of Research" ----- 12 minutes

A. W. Drinkard, Jr., Agric. Exp. Station of Virginia

"From the Standpoint of Extension" ----- 12 minutes  
C. B. Smith, Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department  
of Agriculture  
"From the Standpoint of Teaching" ----- 12 minutes  
A. R. Mann, College of Agriculture and Home Economics,  
Cornell University  
Discussion Starters, E. L. Morgan, University of Missouri, N. L.  
Sims, Oberlin College, F. R. Yoder, State College of Washington,  
Otis D. Duncan, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Monday, December 30  
J. O. Rankin, Univ. of Nebraska presiding.

10:00 - 12:00 "Rural Government as a Field for Teaching, Extension, and  
Research"

"As Seen by a Rural Sociologist" ----- 12 minutes  
T. B. Manny, Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Depart-  
ment of Agriculture  
"As Seen by an Agricultural Economist" ----- 12 minutes  
B. H. Hibbard, University of Wisconsin  
"As Seen by a Political Economist" ----- 12 minutes  
C. M. Kneier, University of Nebraska  
Discussion Starters, Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, J. H.  
Kolb, University of Wisconsin, T. N. Carver, Harvard University,  
C. C. Taylor, University of North Carolina.

12:30 - 3:00 B. F. Coen, Colorado Agricultural College, presiding.

"My Philosophy of Rural Life"  
C. J. Galpin, Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of  
Agriculture ----- 12 minutes  
Lita Bane, Ladies' Home Journal ----- 12 minutes  
Edwin V. O'Hara, National Catholic Welfare  
Council, Washington ----- 12 minutes  
Henry C. Taylor, Vermont Country Life Commission --- 12 minutes

Sunday, December 29

6:30 - Dinner Meeting

A Conference Room will be maintained Saturday, December 27 and  
Monday, December 30, as a meeting place for those persons seeking  
positions and for those seeking workers.

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#### AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

The Agricultural Adjustment Conferences held in eight districts  
of the State were completed October 12. A "Community Development" Com-  
mittee, containing one or more delegates from each county in each district  
meeting, disclosed a recognition of more than 50 types of needs or prob-  
lems which may be classified as (1) the need for finding and developing  
leadership, (2) the need for locally recognized organization, (3) the need  
of means to overcome conflict between organizations and activities, (4)



the means for giving latent talent avenues for expression, (5) problems of finding proper meeting places, (6) the desire for closer contacts between local, county, and state service agencies, (7) a desire for better understanding of proper town-country relations, and (8) the development of means for fulfilling young people's interests and needs.

The Farm Advisers' Conferences held in four sections of the State were completed November 1, at which time arrangements were made for different types of county conferences and schools in the field of rural social organization, such as, (1) farm and home bureau boards' conferences to understand and cooperate in the farm, the home, and community extension program; (2) conferences of leaders of purposive associations to discuss mutual and pertinent problems looking toward plans for cooperative endeavor; and (3) schools for leaders, such as, for officers and directors for program committees, and for special projects, as in drama, music, debate. These meetings will doubtless last until the Farm and Home Week to be held in February at Urbana. They will doubtless give more definite indication as to the type of research that will be carried on in the State.

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#### AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.

The curriculum in Rural Public Welfare, which was established in the College of Agriculture last year, now has an enrollment of 23 students. Arrangements have been made whereby they do their practice work in connection with social work agencies in Columbia and Boone County.

The Department of Rural Sociology is pursuing four research projects this year, viz., Rural Population, directed by Prof. E. L. Morgan; The Development of Public Welfare Work in Missouri, in charge of Prof. Walter Burr; and the Effective Location of Rural Groups, and Trends in Rural Community Organization, led by Prof. Henry J. Burt.

During the summer of 1929 Prof. E. L. Morgan gave two weeks' lectures on Leadership and Community Organization at the University of Iowa. He attended an institute on rural social work at the University of California where he led the discussions on Psychology of Leadership.

The Department of Sociology is engaged in a further development of the work of county superintendent of public welfare within the State as provided by law. The plan makes possible the employment of a trained social worker by the county on a taxation basis. Some 22 counties now have costWY superintendents.

The Rural Sociology program of Farmers' Week, which was held October 21 to 25, dealt primarily with various aspects of rural social work. The attendance at the section meetings indicated that farm people are much interested in a solution of problems of disadvantaged families.

The Chicago Theological Seminary has engaged Prof. Walter Burr to teach during the summer session of 1930. He will offer courses in Rural Sociology and Town and Country Church in Relation to Rural Organization.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Prof. S. H. Hobbs, Jr. is on leave of absence for the fall quarter directing an economic and social survey of the State of Mississippi. The survey is being financed by a group of business men in Mississippi. The survey, in part, covers the natural resources of the state; fiscal affairs of state and local governments; state departments and agencies; and the organization of economic and social data so that the state can see how it compares with other states, and the counties can see how they compare with one another. There is much interest in the establishment at one of the state institutions of a fact-finding and fact-reporting department similar to the Department of Rural Social Economics at the University of North Carolina.

Prof. Hobb's thesis, North Carolina: Economic and Social, which was accepted by the University of Wisconsin, has been accepted for publication by the University of North Carolina press. This will be the first volume of its kind to be published in America.

Prof. P. W. Wager has been granted leave of absence beginning the first of January to study Forestry taxation in North Carolina, having been engaged by the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Wager expects to complete the study by the first of September, 1930.

Dr. E. C. Branson has been confined to his bed, suffering from an attack of influenza, since late in September. His friends will be glad to learn that he is recovering.

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AT THE NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

At a conference of owners of large acreages of rented land, held at Fargo, North Dakota, November 7th and 8th under the auspices of the Greater North Dakota Association, E. A. Willson read a paper on the "Social Phases of Farm Tenancy." He presented data from his North Dakota studies which showed that the average number of modern home conveniences per farm, the percent of good farm buildings and attractive farmsteads increased with an increase in the acres operated per farm. Also, that the average size of farm in acres operated, the number of productive animal units per farm, the average number of conveniences in the farm homes, and the percent of good farmsteads were larger for the owner operated than for the tenant operated farms. He told the land owners that they must increase the size of their farms to efficient economic units and make the farm houses comfortable and attractive in order to secure good farmers as tenants, men



who would improve the land and who could make a profit for themselves and the land owners.

In a survey of two townships, Mr. Willson found that more than half of the farmers were raised in those communities, the sons of the original settlers, and that nearly 90 per cent of all the sons of farmers in those townships who were 19 years of age or over were farming for themselves, or were on the home farms. He was of the opinion that these young men who were raised on North Dakota farms would make the best possible farmers for North Dakota in the future.

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#### AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

"Rural Organizations and the Farm Family" has been submitted to the editorial division for publication as a research bulletin. This study was conducted by combined statistical and case method analysis in twelve selected rural school districts of five counties in Wisconsin.

Field work for a study of the farmer's standard of living, content, adequacy and conditioning factors has been completed recently, and tabulation of data is well under way. The divisions of Rural Life, Farm Management, and Home Economics, University of Wisconsin, and the divisions of Farm Population and Rural Life, and Farm Management and Costs, United States Department of Agriculture, are cooperating in this study.

Miss Mary Nicolls is pursuing graduate study in rural sociology at the University of Wisconsin, under a fellowship of the National Council of Parental Education. The fellowship was granted as a result of the conference on Rural Family Relations, at the Merrill Palmer School, Detroit, last March. Miss Nicolls has had training at the New York School of Social Work and has served as a visiting teacher in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The third state-wide home talent tournament in rural dramatics is scheduled for the first week in February, in connection with the Farm and Home week at Madison. Another phase of the extension work for the present year consists of rural Leadership schools which are being held in four counties.

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#### RECENT STUDIES INSTITUTED.

Prof. Fred R. Yoder, State College of Washington, assisted by Harvey W. Starling is making in selected rural communities a study of "Factors Influencing the Effective Location and Functioning of Rural Groups." This study is made in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. Prof. Yoder will study the practices of effective rural community organizations and also make an analysis of behavior traits of effective community leaders.

The University of Vermont, in connection with the Comprehensive Survey of Rural Vermont, is making a study of "Population Substitutions in Rural Vermont." This study is made in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. Miss Genieve Lamson is doing the field work for the study. An attempt is being made to determine the character and degree of adjustment of the recent population elements in rural Vermont to their environment, and the effect of these new population elements on the economic and social life of the communities and the State.

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#### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION.

The United States Department of Agriculture in October issued Circular No. 87 entitled, "Problems in Cooperation and Experiences of Farmers in Marketing Potatoes," by T. B. Manny. This bulletin is the outcome of a study of the psychological elements in the problems of marketing potatoes through cooperative marketing organizations. The study was made by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Mr. Manny's special achievement in this study is the analysis of the impact of ingrained habits of farmers upon marketing practices.

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#### NEW SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council voted at its recent annual conference at Hanover the appointment of the following Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture for the coming year, ending August 31, 1930; Prof. George F. Warren, Chairman, Cornell University; Prof. J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Lewis C. Gray, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Dept. of Agriculture; Prof. Robert T. Crane, University of Michigan; Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, Brookings Institute; Prof. Frank H. Knight, University of Chicago; and Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner, Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York City.

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#### FELLOWSHIPS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

The special committee on fellowships of the Social Science Research Council announces that the fellowships in agricultural economics and rural sociology are now open for application for the academic year 1930-1931.

The fellowship stipends range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, the amount in any given case depending upon the varying conditions of training and experience of the student, his degree of advancement, whether married or single, or other considerations. In highly exceptional cases, stipends



even less than \$1,000 or larger than \$2,000 may be granted. Fellowships will not be granted to persons already holding the degree of doctor of science or doctor of philosophy. The fellowships are intended strictly for purpose of training and instruction and not for the completion of a thesis or for independent research.

Applications for fellowships must be made on forms provided for the purpose and sent to the Chairman of the Special Fellowship Committee together with supporting letters or other material. Applications for appointment for 1930-31 must be in the hands of the Committee on or before February 1, 1930. The members of the Committee are: E. G. Nourse, Chairman, Brookings Institution, 26 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; Frank A. Fetter, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.; C. J. Galpin, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Henry A. Wallace, Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Iowa; Joseph S. Davis, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California; W. J. Spillman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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#### NEW DIRECTORY OF TEACHERS OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY

The new Directory of Teachers of Rural Sociology in colleges, universities, theological seminaries, and normal schools, will be issued December 15. This Directory along with certain new bulletins will go automatically to all teachers whose names appear in the Directory.

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#### THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

The White House Conference on Child Health and Protection is being prepared for by an able Committee and many sub-committees. The rural child is to receive adequate recognition and attention. Studies bearing on the health and welfare of rural children will be welcomed by the Committee. Send material to Miss Theresa Dansdill, Department of Research Information, White House Conference, Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

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#### COST OF MEDICAL CARE.

The National Committee on the Cost of Medical Care presents a report in bulletin form entitled "The First Two Years' Work of the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care." The report is issued from 910 - 17th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Two recent publications by the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care, were issued last month, entitled, Abstract of Publication No. 2, "The Extent of Illness and of Physical and Mental Defects Prevailing in the United States," and "A Survey of Statistical Data on Medical Facilities in the United States."

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#### AN ATTITUDE STUDY.

A mimeograph preliminary report, entitled ATTITUDES ON RURAL GOVERNMENT, by T. B. Manny, has just been issued by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This report is the result of a sociological study of rural local government in the whole United States as seen through the eyes of a selected list of farmers, educators, and professional persons.

Until the rural political scientist becomes an actuality among rural scholars, such borderland studies between rural sociology and political science will not only be legitimate when put out by rural sociologists, but may even be in the line of high responsibility.

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#### RURAL LIFE CLUBS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Two in five colleges and universities have clubs or organizations which further rural life interests, according to a recent limited questionnaire study conducted by the American Country Life Association. Brief questionnaires were mailed to the 600 teachers of rural sociology as listed in the Directory of Teachers of Rural Sociology. Exactly 100 usable replies were returned in time for tabulation for the meeting of the student section of the American Country Life Association at Ames, Iowa, October 17 - 19.

Fifteen of the 40 clubs in the 100 institutions carry the name "Country Life," 7 are Collegiate 4-H Clubs, 4 are Junior Granges, 3 are Pastors Clubs, 8 have other names and 4 are without names. Sixty types of program activities are carried on by these 40 clubs, at the colleges. In addition, 22 of the clubs conduct extension programs in rural communities.

Among the reasons given for the absence of clubs at 60 of the institutions represented by the 100 replies are lack of interest in rural life, club not desirable or advisable, too few students, inadequate equipment (including no department of rural sociology and no place to meet), and too many other organizations.

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THE COMING RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

At the urgent request of the Committee on Rural Social Organization, under the chairmanship of Dean A. R. Mann, the Office of Experiment Stations has authorized the use of State Purnell funds (subject to the approval of each Director of an Experiment Station) for the travel expenses of research workers on sociological projects at State Agricultural Experiment Stations, for attendance upon the Second Institute on Rural Sociological Problems and Methods, at Washington, D. C., December 31, 1929 - January 4, 1930. The Institute will be held in the Conference Room, No. 411, Bieber Building, 1358 B Street, S. W. The sessions will consist of an exposition of two particular outstanding projects of each of the three topics, Population, Standard of Living, Rural Organization. Able sociologists in special fields will come in to demonstrate methods. Invitations will be sent to research workers at Land-Grant Colleges, to those in other colleges and universities who are cooperating with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, to Research Institutes, and to the Advisory Committee of Social and Economic Research in Agriculture.

Tentative Program for Institute.

Washington, D. C., December 31, 1929 - January 4, 1930.

Tuesday, Dec. 31. 10:00 A.M. Population Projects

1. Migration
2. Population Analysis
3. Discussion

12:00 Method of Study by Increases and Decreases  
(applied to population)

2:00 P. M. Visit to Census Bureau

Wednesday, Jan. 1. 10:00 A.M. Standard of Living Projects

1. Relation of Local Institutions
2. Measurable Factors
3. Measuring Household Equipment

Discussion

2:00 P.M. Discussion continued

3:00 P.M. The Case Method of Sociological Research

Thursday, Jan. 2. 10:00 A.M. Methods of Study of Social Attitudes

Discussion

2:00 P.M. Causal factors

3:30 P.M. Statistical apparatus and technique,  
editing, coding, use of tabulating machine  
- when and how. In charge of someone from  
Tabulating Section

Friday, Jan. 3            10:00 A.M. Rural Organization projects  
                               1. Studies of group participation and  
                                    special interest groups  
                               2. Social areas  
                               3. Discussion  
                               2:00 P.M. Discussion continued  
                               3:00 P.M. Graphic Methods and Photographic Processes

Saturday, Jan. 4.        10:00 A.M. Continuation of Discussion as desired  
                               2:00 P.M. Reports of three committees on above proj-  
                                    ects and a committee on study of social  
                                    attitudes

Research Institute Committee.

Dean A. R. Mann, as Chairman of the Committee on Rural Social Organization has appointed the following Committee to carry out the above Institute: C. J. Galpin, Chairman; Dwight Sanderson; C. C. Taylor.

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SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

Sir Robert B. Greig, Secretary for the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, in a recent address before the British Association for the Advancement of Agriculture at Pretoria, published in full in the Scottish Journal of Agriculture for October, has this to say about the prominence of agriculture in scientific undertakings:

"The progress of civilization depends upon science, not science stated crudely as chemistry or botany, but the scientific spirit applied to all aspects of life. If science is applied to the economics of the Empire, the greatest economic asset to which it can be applied is agriculture. From the standpoint of area, or wealth, or population employed, agriculture is by far the most important activity in the Empire. The true wealth of the world, the wealth which determines the standard of living of nations, is limited by the capacity to produce cereals, milk, meat, wool, cotton, hides, and other prime necessities of life of soil origin; without a sufficient supply of these progress in the art of living is impossible. Agriculture is also the one stable industry. Coal seams come to an end, or the discovery of new sources of energy changes the values of coal. Advances in physical science may, while creating new industries, destroy old ones. The wealth of gold and diamond fields depends upon artificial values which might disappear if society were constituted on a new basis with a different monetary system and different culture. But agricultural wealth, the capacity to produce every year the food and clothing without which life ends, is and always has been the one great permanent industry, the one which is the foundation of all national or indeed of world wealth."

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### BROADCAST TALKS ON VILLAGE INDUSTRIES.

The RURAL INDUSTRIES in its Autumn number, published by the Rural Industries Bureau, No. 27, Bedford Square, London, announces that the British Broadcasting Corporation has arranged in cooperation with the Rural Industries Bureau for a series of talks on "The Village and the Village Craftsman" to be broadcast from the British stations this autumn. The talks will be given on Friday evening on such topics as the following: Village Life and Village Craftsmen, The Blacksmith, Women Rural Handicraft Workers, The Wheelwright, The Underwood Industry, and Uses of Home Grown Timber, The Problems of Village Life and Village Crafts today and in the Future.

American problems of the small farmer and of the part-time farmer and of the small village are beginning to accentuate the need for an organization of rural industries. Rural sociologists might add this important matter to their responsibility.

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### RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN BELGIUM.

Dr. Paul de Vuyst who, as many will recall, was delegate to the International Country Life Conference at the State College of Michigan in 1927, writes as follows:

"We have organized in Belgium a course of rural sociology. The first part will be published at the end of the year." This will be welcome news to all rural sociologists who are interested in the spread of the science in Europe. It is understood that this "course" will be a book of about 300 pages, in twelve lessons, to be sold for \$.85, advanced subscription \$.75. It is significant that the Budapest Conference passed a resolution "establishing this course."

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### FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FAMILY EDUCATION.

The Belgian organizing Committee extend to all official or independent groups an invitation to send their delegates to this Congress, which will be held at the Universal Exhibition of Liege, in 1930. Specialists, educationalists and parents are specially invited.

The Committee goes on to say: "The family is the basis of the State, and the more home education is improved, the more rapid will be the civilization.

This Congress will mean new progress in home education. Will be specially studied: the most practical methods of obtaining the maximum results in the formation of the future generation. Instead of being empiric, the education of children at home will become more scientific. Some comparative experiments undertaken in the home hearth and in the

educational establishments, and the results obtained, will be presented and discussed.

This Congress will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the International Commission of Home Education, and also, let us hope, with the definite foundation of the International Institute of Home Education, to which all philanthropists are appealed to for a generous contribution.

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION TO THE CONGRESS: Individual subscriptions: 2 dollars; institutions, administrations, governments: 20 dollars.

Each of these subscriptions entitles subscribers to two delegates and two copies of the publications of the Congress.

Kindly forward your remittances by postal order to the General Treasurer: Mr. Pien, 44, rue Rubens, Brussels, Belgium.

For all further information, apply to the organizing Committee's delegate: P. DeVuyst, 22 Avenue de l'Yser (Cinquantenaire), Brussels, Belgium."

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#### MIGRATORS ON THE WAY HOME.

It is reported that in July there arrived in Roumania 900 Swedes coming from a district in Russia near Odessa.

"These people were the descendants of Swedish families that had settled in Russia two hundred years ago and who, under the Soviets, had lost their property and found life so very hard that they had petitioned the Swedish Government to assist them to return to the land of their forefathers. They stated that conditions in South Russia were very critical on account of a very serious crop shortage, not due to any climatic condition but simply because the peasants did not have the seed grain for the spring sowing. They estimated that the harvest would only amount to about 30 per cent of a normal yield and thought that next winter would see a return of famine conditions throughout South Russia of such serious proportions that Russia would again be obliged to appeal to the world for assistance.

The men interviewed spoke only Russian and a Swedish dialect of two hundred years ago. Several of them said that they had been fairly well off before the war but had lost everything and that living conditions now are exceedingly difficult."

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PRINTED REPORTS OF BUDAPEST CONFERENCE.

The International Commission on Country Life has issued recently Bulletin No. 7, containing the formal papers presented at the Third International Congress for the Improvement of Rural Life, held at Budapest, Hungary, June 1 - 3, 1929. The papers are printed in French, German, and English. The Bulletin comes with membership in the International Country Life Commission. Apply for membership to Prof. Asher Hobson, University of California, Berkeley, California. The following Americans are on standing Committees of the Commission: E deS. Brunner, Eben Mumford, Dwight Sanderson, C. J. Galpin.

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A POLISH VIEW OF PEASANT MOBILITY.

Dr. Lutoslawski accedes to our request for a statement on rural life by the following resume of a paper which he presented at the Budapest Congress:

1. Les mouvements agraires contemporains sont dans la plupart des cas un obstacle sur la voie de l'embellissement de la vie rurale, si on considere le programme de cet embellissement du point de vue de la doctrine de l'agrarisme.

a. Le caractere revolutionnaire des reformes agraires contemporaines, effectuees apres la guerre dans maints pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale, a ete la cause de l'insucces de ces reformes, au point de vue economique pas moins que social, parce qu'on a demande d'un coup, trop au paysan, qu'on avait longtemps neglige comme facteur social et politique.

b. L'Internationale Verte, comme organisant sur le terrain politique international la classe paysanne, ne peut produire un autre effet qu'affablir le sentiment de celle-ci pour le sol natal, au tant plus que l'esprit de classe n'est pas favorable au developpement du patriotisme.

2. La Commission Internationale pour l'Embellissement de la vie rurale devrait:

a. entreprendre des etudes speciales pour approfondir les elements de l'agrarisme concu comme une doctrine nouvelle, dont l'antithese est l'urbanisme et le socialisme.

b. mettre a l'ordre du jour de son prochain Congres le programme italien de lutte contre l'urbanisme et de la ruralisation du pays.

Dr. Jean Lutoslawski  
President de la Societe Polonaise pour le  
Developpement de la vie Rurale.

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PRINCIPLES OF RURAL-URBAN SOCIOLOGY.

The November issue of AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS LITERATURE has these several paragraphs about Sorokin's and Zimmerman's recently published "Principles of Rural-Urban Sociology."

This volume puts forth the rather unique claim that it stands upon its feet as a "sociology" and not "a mere collection of various data pertaining to aspects of rural life and rural communities."

Furthermore, the book stresses its endeavor to keep to facts and "not bother itself with any evaluation of what is good and bad in rural life." The authors base their conclusions on data drawn from all countries, not from America alone.

Readers will find a new approach to rural sociology in this volume. There is a positiveness in concepts which is refreshing, whatever may be one's own judgment of the matters under discussion. Notice, for example, the authors' idea of the role of sociology in comparison with that of economics and other social sciences.

"Economics does not take the real-complex-man and the real-complex conditions in which men live, act, and interact, but intentionally simplifies man and his conditions and relations. For instance, classical and even contemporary economics postulates the economic man as a mere incarnation of rational purchasing and selling; and the economic environment in which such economic men are supposed to be acting and interacting so as to create the phenomena of production, exchange, distribution, and consumption of economic values, is again highly hypothetical.... The same may be said of generalizing political or religious sciences... Their postulated men and relationships could be valid only within the simplified hypothetical conditions. The real man is much more complex than the postulated homo-politicus and the real social phenomena and social relationships are quite different from the supposed hypothetical conditions of those sciences ... Sociology does not postulate any one-sided and simplified homo-economicus or homo-politicus. It deals with men and their relationships in all their real complexity. Homo-sociologicus is a composite homo who in part is homo-economicus, in part homo-politicus, in part homo-religiosus, in part homo-aestheticus."

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NEW COUNTY LIBRARIES.

The American Library Association is authority for the statement that there are six new county libraries supplementing the total count of 263 county libraries in 1928, as follows:



Arizona - Maricopa County (outside of Phoenix). The first county to take advantage of the 1929 act. Delaware - New Castle County. Contract with Wilmington Institute Free Library. Following a successful demonstration of the service with private funds. The original donor has created an endowment to add to the county appropriation and has given a book truck. Indiana - Vermilion County, Newport. Louisiana - Webster Parish, Minden. Established with the aid of a five-year grant from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, supplementing the county appropriation. Montana - Stillwater County, Columbus. Texas - Tom Green County, San Angelo.

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#### FARM MIGRATION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

The Agricultural Experiment Station of the State College of Washington issued in June, bulletin 233, entitled, "A Study of Farm Migration in Selected Communities in the State of Washington," by A. A. Smick and F. R. Yoder. This bulletin is the result of a study made by the Division of Farm Management and Agricultural Economics of the State College of Washington in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is a study of farm migration in three counties of the State. Five hundred fifty two families were personally visited and information received concerning 996 persons sixteen years of age and over, either living on the farm or having left the farm. The outstanding facts of the study show that 18.9 per cent of the persons studied had left the farm and migrated to the city. A larger per cent of women were among these migrants than of men. Most of the migration took place before the age of 30. Migrants entered either professional or laboring occupations. The reasons for the migration appear to be largely economic. In nearly all cases the boys and men who had left the farm were at a slight disadvantage in various phases of farm life as compared with the farm boys and men who had remained on the farm. In general it appears that persons leaving the farm had participated in more social activities of all kinds than those who remained on the farm. In nine out of ten types of reading matter considered people leaving the farm were more fully supplied. Of those attending high school, the boys and girls who left the farms continued in high school longer than those who remained on the farm. Interesting recommendations follow as a result of the study.

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#### AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY IN VIRGINIA.

The University of Virginia publishes in its University of Virginia Record Extension Series "An Economic and Social Survey of Charles City County," by John Jay Corson, 3rd. The survey contains a foreword by Wilson Gee, Professor of Rural Economics and Sociology at the University of Virginia. The content of the bulletin is facts in the history of Charles City County, natural resources of the county, rural and urban population, industries, wealth and taxation, county schools, county agriculture, food

and feed production, evidences of social progress, and a collection finally of Charles City County problems.

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RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCEDURE IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

Rural sociologists will gain much on statistical method applicable to sociological problems from the Social Science Research Council Monograph entitled, "Research Method and Procedure in Agricultural Economics." There are still a few sets of this Monograph on sale at cost, \$2.50 per set, postage additional. Applications for a set may be made to H. R. Tolley, U. S. Department of Agriculture. If the sets are sold out, sociologists will do well to make use of the set in the Agricultural College Library.

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FARM AND CITY LIVING COMPARED.

The Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota has just issued Bulletin 255, entitled INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES OF MINNESOTA FARM AND CITY FAMILIES, 1927 - 28. Dr. C. C. Zimmerman is the author. The bulletin is based upon a study of the incomes and expenditures of 226 farm families and 252 city families. The study was made by personal visits during the summer of 1928. Dr. Zimmerman at the close of the bulletin makes the following assertion: "The relative standards of living of farm families have been greatly underestimated." He believes that students of the standard of living problem have greatly underestimated the significance of the psychic elements in farm life. It is to be hoped that studies in other states will follow, and furnish a broad base for judgment on the relative merits of farm and city living.

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BURR'S "SMALL TOWNS."

The MacMillan Company has just issued a book by Walter Burr, Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri, entitled, "SMALL TOWNS, AN ESTIMATE OF THEIR TRADE AND CULTURE." Prof. Burr dedicates this book to the President and Faculty members of Kansas State Agricultural College, "in memory of fifteen years of happy comradeship." Prof. Burr, as is well known, is a past-master at putting his finger on sore spots in civic problems. In "SMALL TOWNS," Burr is thoroughly in character.

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